

NATIONAL

COMICS

10¢

QUALITY
COMIC
GROUP
I. C. D.
12

The
BARKER
BREAKS THE BANK
AT DONTÉ MARLO!

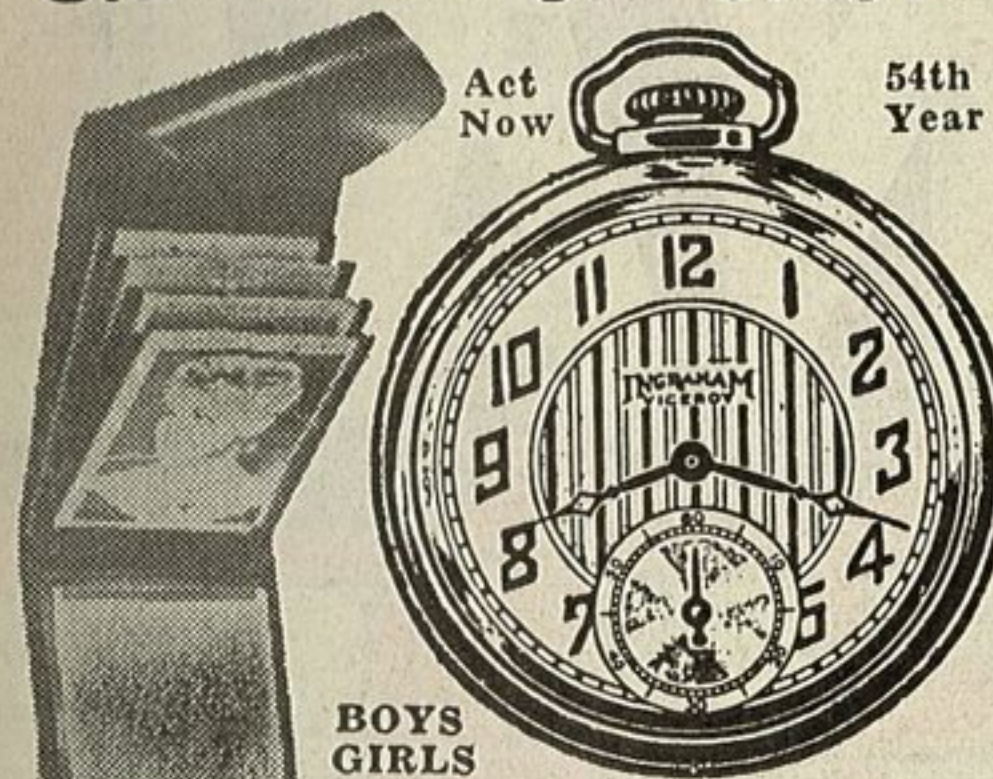
DECEMBER No.75





WEB COMIC
UNIVERSE.COM

GIVEN PREMIUMS or CASH



Act Now 54th Year

BOYS GIRLS

Pocket Watches, Wrist Watches, Billfolds (sent postage paid). Other Premiums or Cash Commission easily yours. **SIMPLY GIVE** pictures with White CLOVERINE Brand SALVE sold at 25 cents a box (with picture) and remit per catalog sent with order postage paid by us to start. Our 54th year. **WILSON CHEM. CO., Dept. 108-A, TYRONE, PA.**

PREMIUMS-GIVEN-CASH



54th Year
BOYS - GIRLS - LADIES - MEN — SEND NAME AND ADDRESS ON COUPON TODAY - NOW!
Genuine 22 Cal. Rifles, Lovable, Fully Dressed Dolls over 15 inches in height, Complete School Boxes, Pen & Pencil Sets, (sent postage paid). Many other Premiums or Cash Commission now easily yours. **SIMPLY GIVE** beautiful art pictures with White CLOVERINE Brand SALVE easily sold to friends, neighbors, relatives at 25 cents a box (with picture) and remit amount asked under Premium shown in catalog sent with your order postage paid by us to start. Write or mail coupon for starting order. Be first. **WILSON CHEMICAL CO., Dept. 108-B, TYRONE, PA.**



Boys
Girls
Ladies
Men

Act Now

PREMIUMS GIVEN

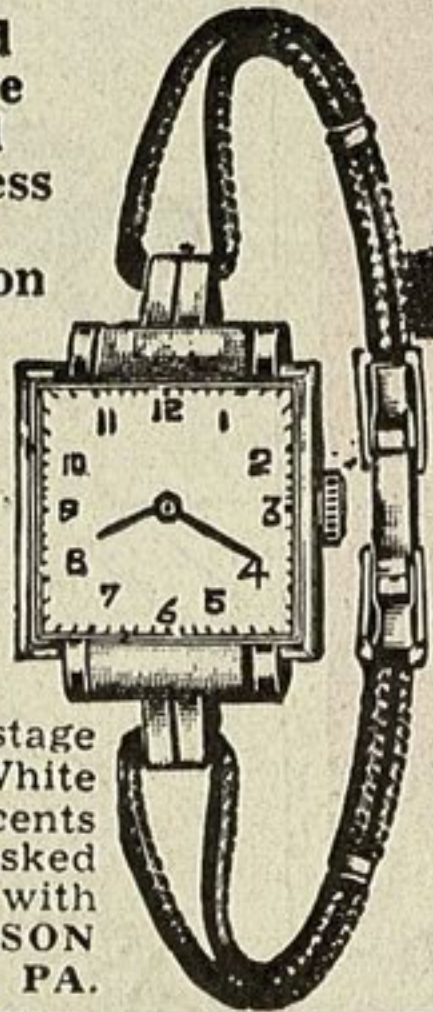


Send Name And Address On Coupon

BOYS GIRLS LADIES MEN

WE ARE RELIABLE

Wrist Watches, Pocket Watches, Alarm Clocks, Radios, Record Players (sent postage paid). **SIMPLY GIVE** art pictures with White CLOVERINE Brand SALVE sold at 25 cents a box (with picture) and remit amount asked under Premium shown in catalog sent with order postage paid by us to start. **WILSON CHEMICAL CO., Dept. 108-C, TYRONE, PA.**



54th YEAR

PREMIUMS - CASH GIVEN



Boys - Girls Ladies - Men

Send Name And Address —

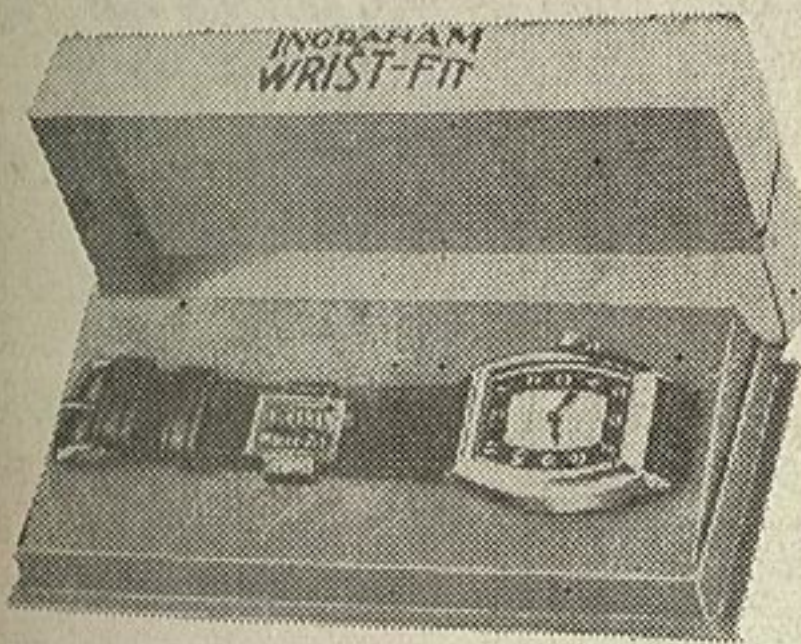


MAIL COUPON

Dept. 108-D, Tyrone, Pa.

We Trust You Footballs, Candid Cameras with Carrying Cases, Complete Cub Fishing Outfits (sent postage paid). **SIMPLY GIVE** pictures with White CLOVERINE Brand SALVE easily sold at 25 cents a box (with picture) and remit per catalog sent with starting order. **Wilson Chem. Co.,**

GIVEN PREMIUMS or CASH COMMISSION



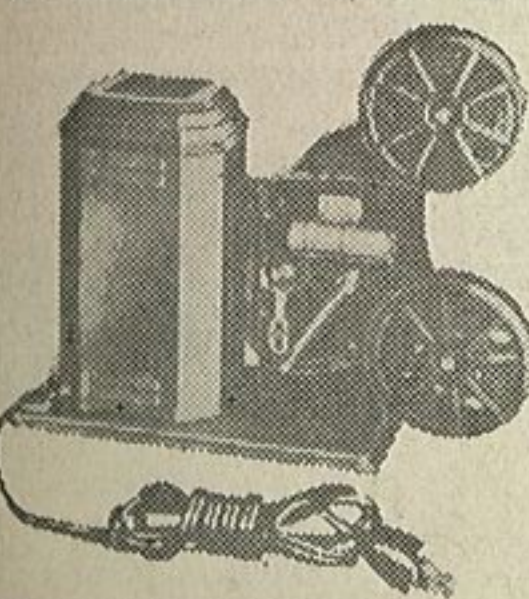
BE FIRST

ACT NOW



54th YEAR

BOYS - GIRLS - LADIES - MEN SEND NAME AND ADDRESS TODAY



Wrist Watches, Movie Projectors with roll of film, Weather Houses, Pencil Sharpeners (sent postage paid). Many other Premiums or Cash Commission now easily yours. **SIMPLY GIVE** beautiful pictures with White CLOVERINE Brand SALVE easily sold to friends, neighbors, relatives at 25 cents a box (with picture) and remit amount asked under Premium shown in catalog sent with your order postage paid by us to start. Our 54th year. We trust you. Be first. **WILSON CHEMICAL CO., Dept. 108-E, TYRONE, PA.**

Mail Coupon

GIVEN

Act Now

BE FIRST

BOYS - MEN — 1000 Shot Daisy Air Rifles with tube of shot (sent postage paid). **SIMPLY GIVE** beautiful pictures with White Cloverine Brand Salve easily sold at 25 cents a box (with picture) and remit per catalog sent with your order postage paid by us to start. Write or mail coupon today. Our 54th year. We are reliable. **WILSON CHEM. CO., Dept. 108-F, TYRONE, PA.**

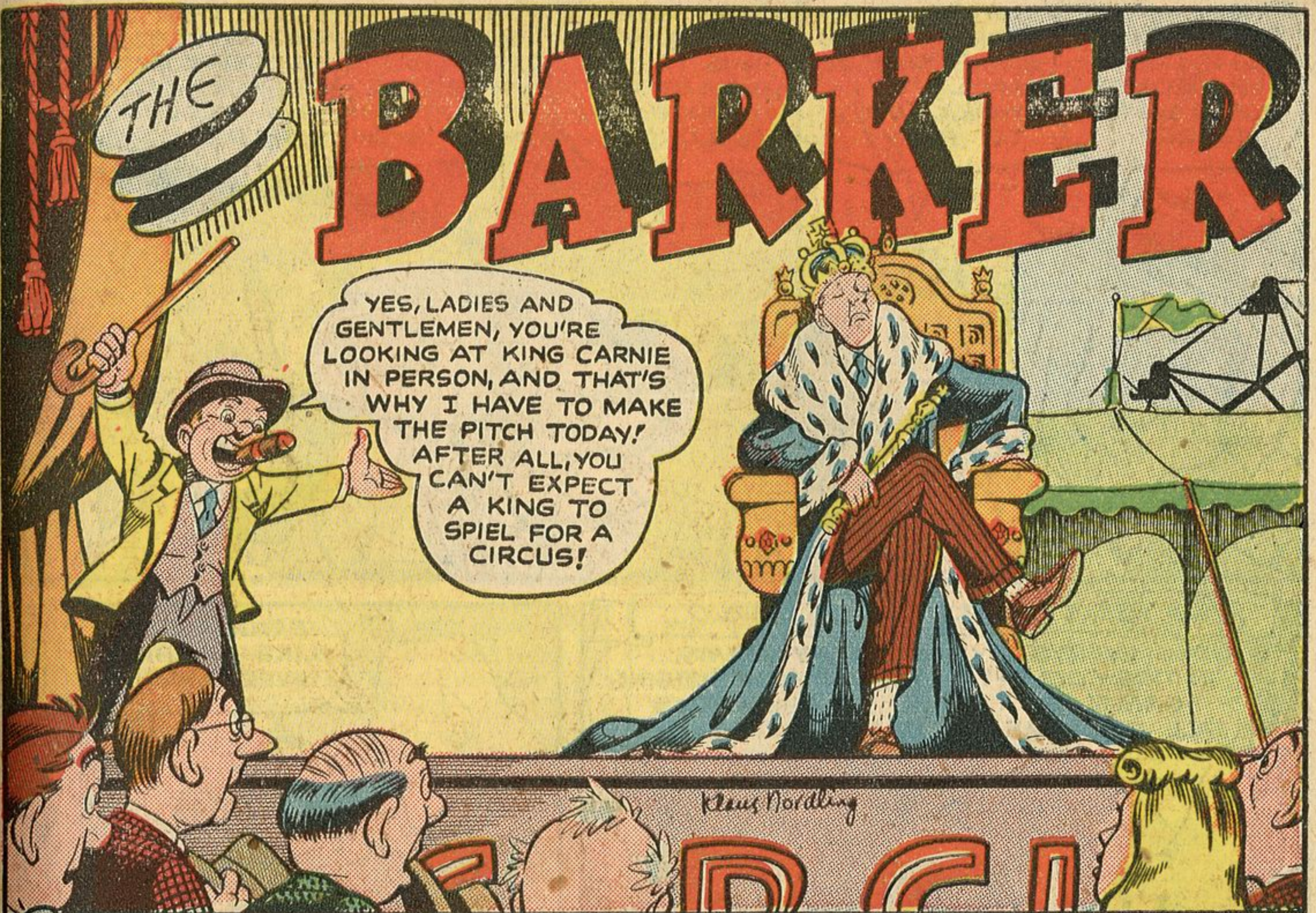
Mail Coupon Today

WILSON CHEM. CO., Dept. 108, TYRONE, PA. Date.....
Gentlemen:—Please send me on trial, twelve colorful art pictures with twelve boxes of White CLOVERINE Brand SALVE to sell at 25c a box (with picture). I will remit amount within 30 days, select a premium or keep Cash Commission as fully explained under Premium wanted in catalog sent with my order postage paid to start.

NAME AGE
ST. R.D. BOX.....
TOWN ZONE
No. STATE.
Print LAST Name Here

Write or paste coupon on postal card or mail in an envelope

THE BARKER



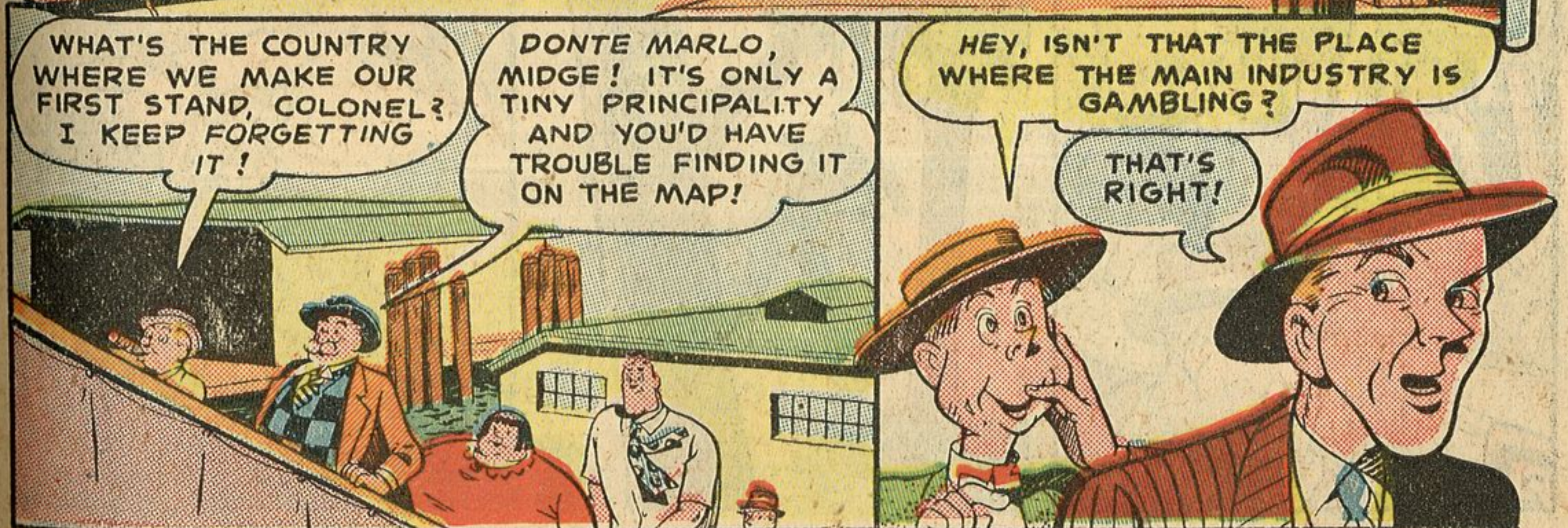
YES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, YOU'RE LOOKING AT KING CARNIE IN PERSON, AND THAT'S WHY I HAVE TO MAKE THE PITCH TODAY! AFTER ALL, YOU CAN'T EXPECT A KING TO SPIEL FOR A CIRCUS!

Klaus Nordling



TAKING MY CIRCUS ABROAD ALWAYS EXCITES ME! EXOTIC PLACES, STRANGE CUSTOMS, AND THE PROSPECT OF PLAYING BEFORE CROWNED HEADS... IT'S FUN, EH, CARNIE?

GIVE ME AN AUDIENCE OF PLAIN PEOPLE ANY-TIME! THEY'RE EASIER TO PLEASE!

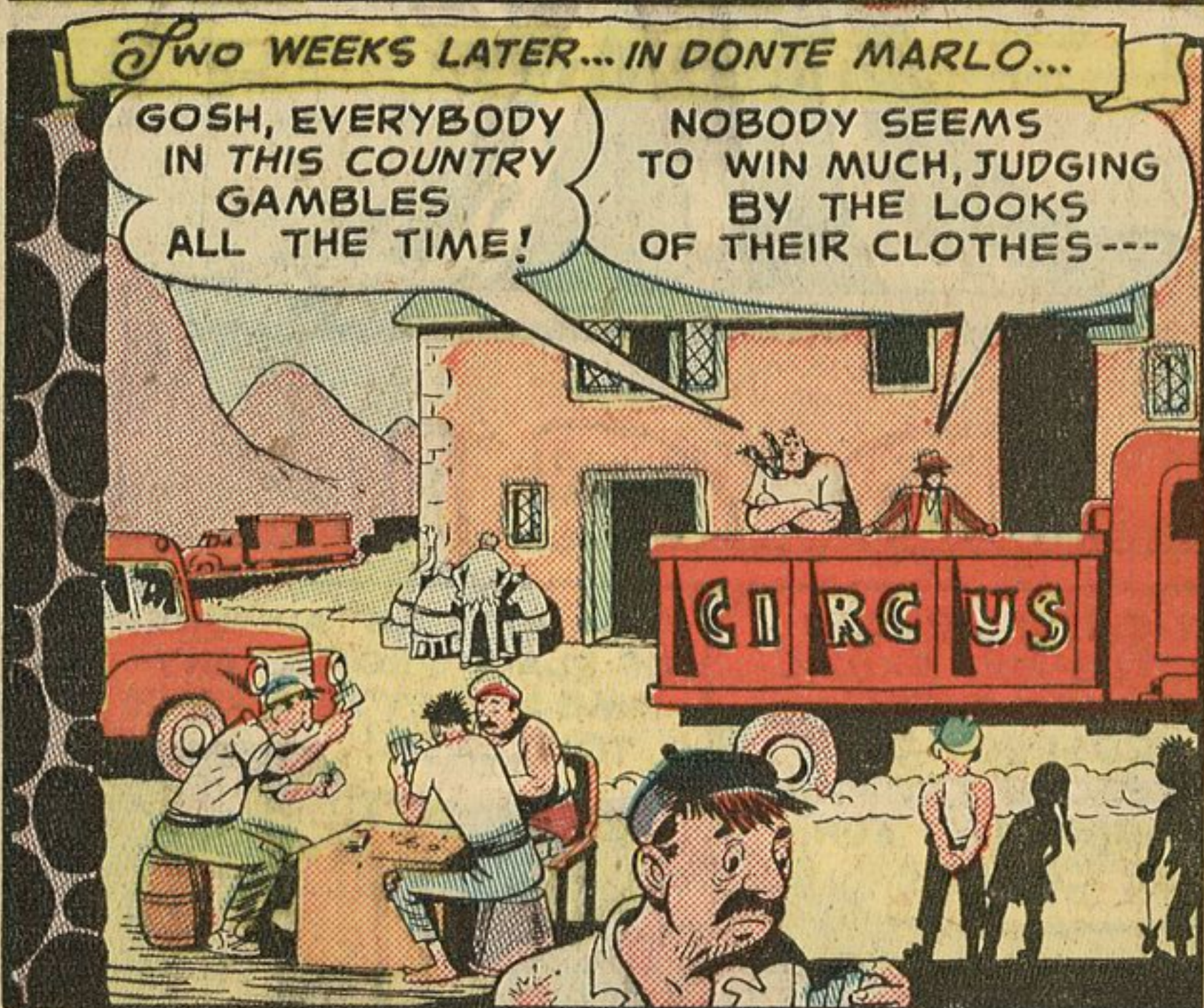
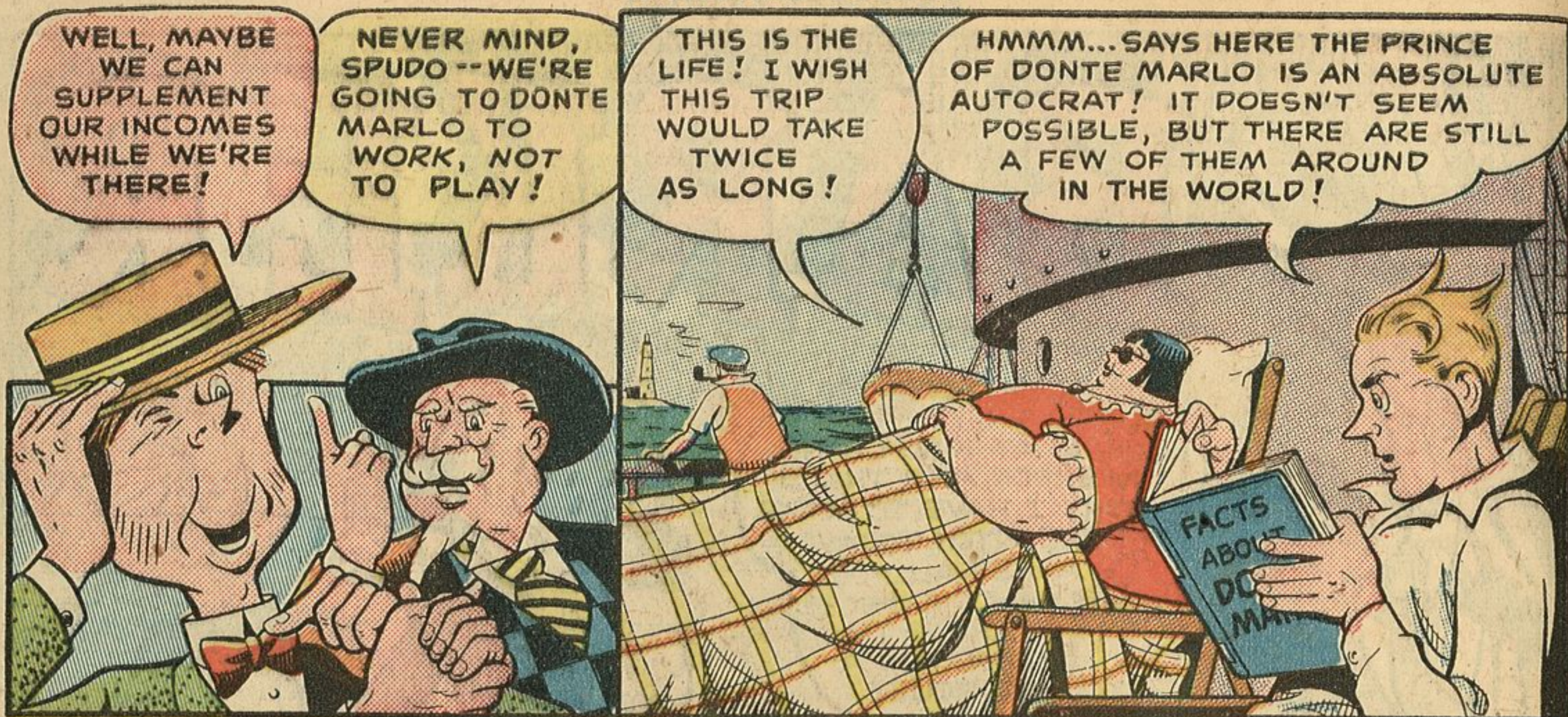


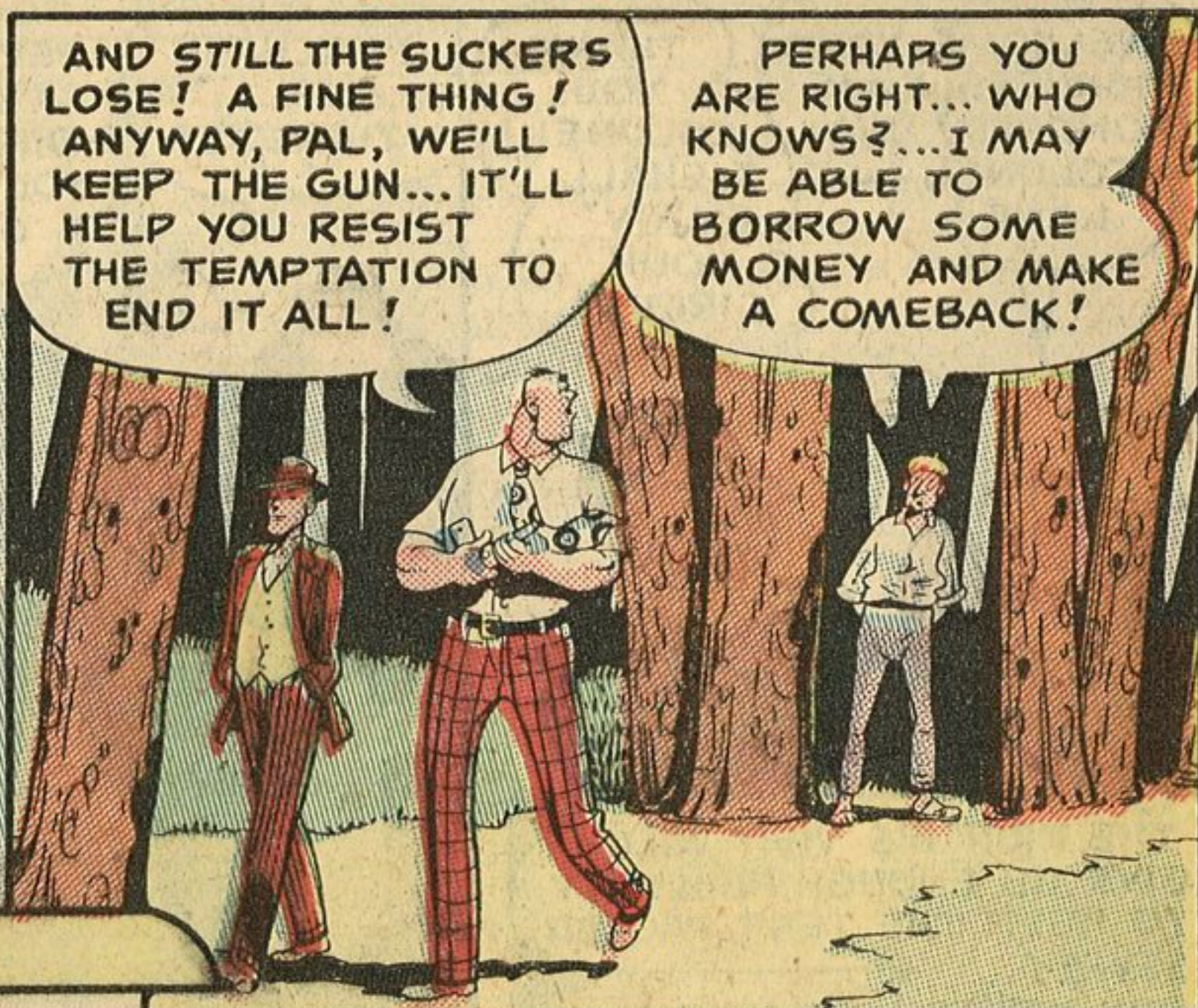
WHAT'S THE COUNTRY WHERE WE MAKE OUR FIRST STAND, COLONEL? I KEEP FORGETTING IT!

DONTE MARLO, MIDGE! IT'S ONLY A TINY PRINCIPALITY AND YOU'D HAVE TROUBLE FINDING IT ON THE MAP!

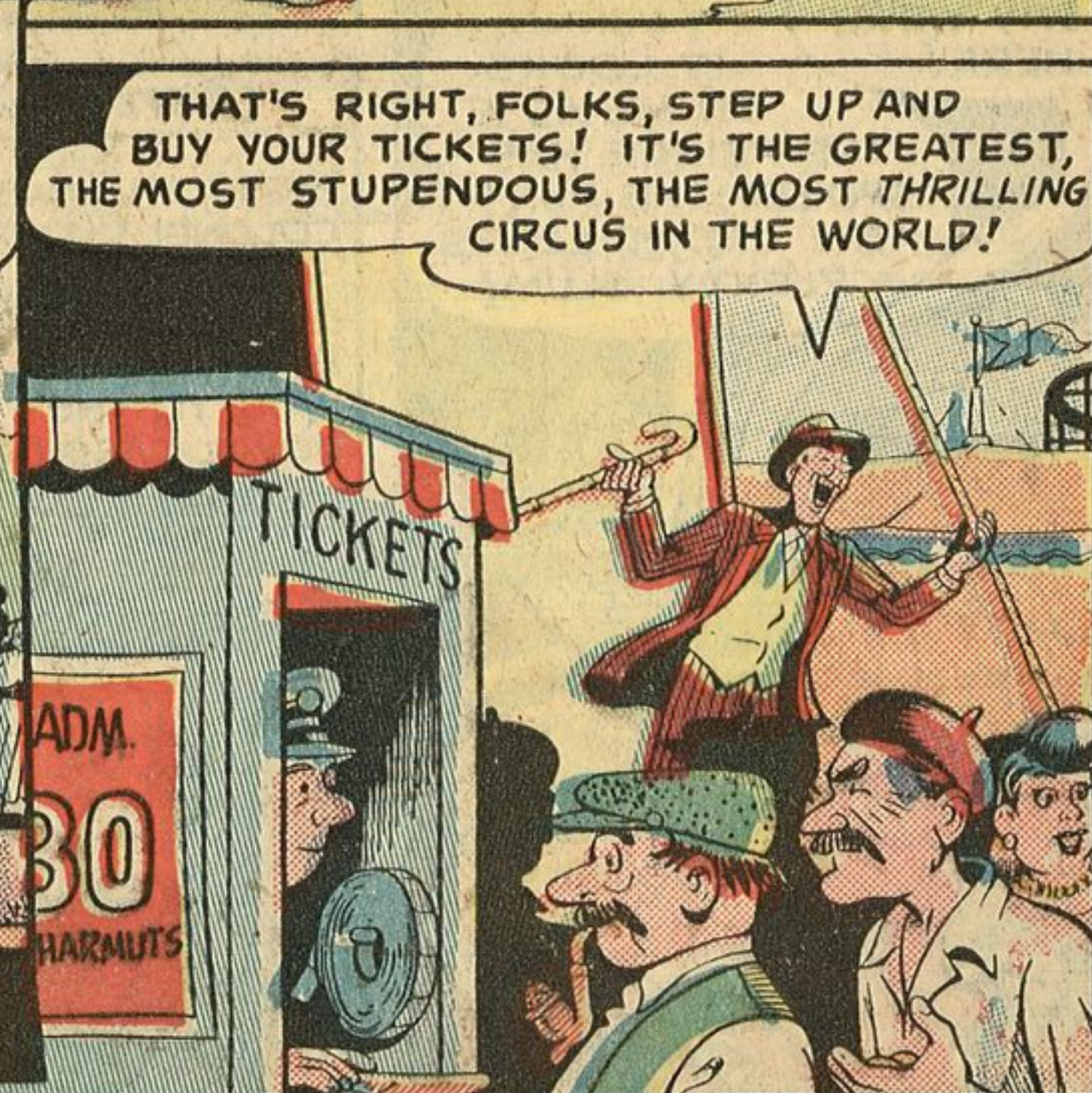
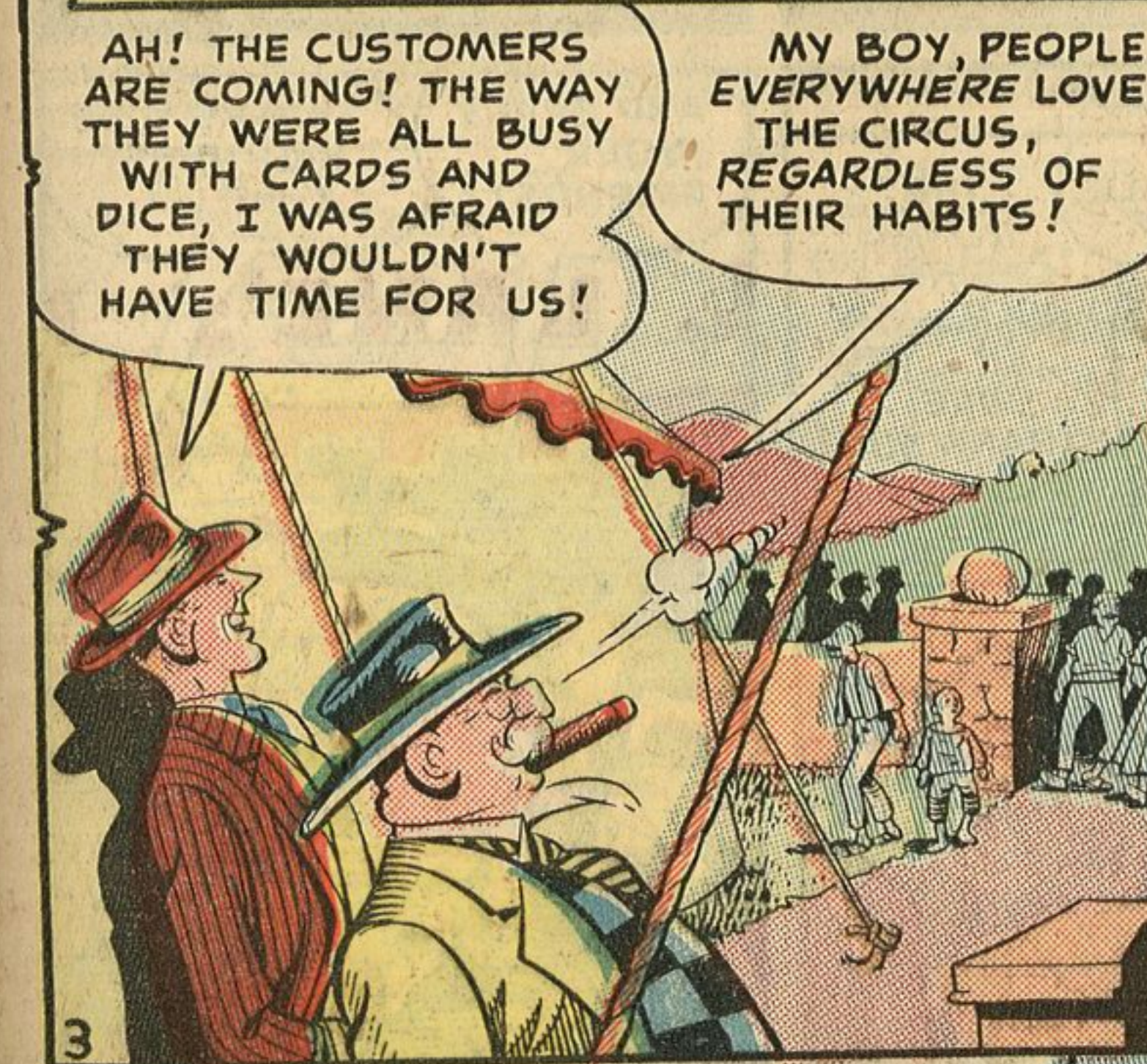
HEY, ISN'T THAT THE PLACE WHERE THE MAIN INDUSTRY IS GAMBLING?

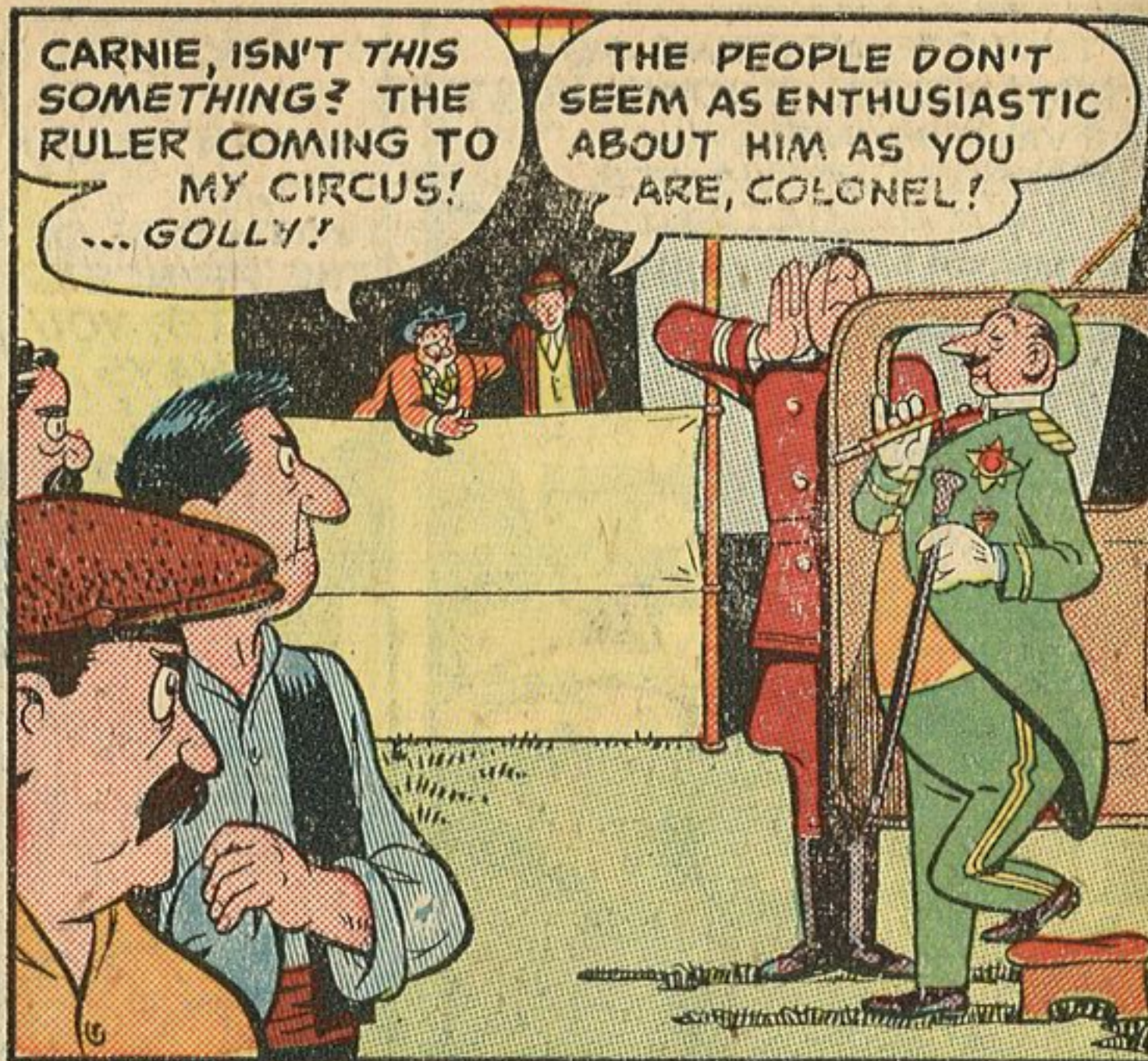
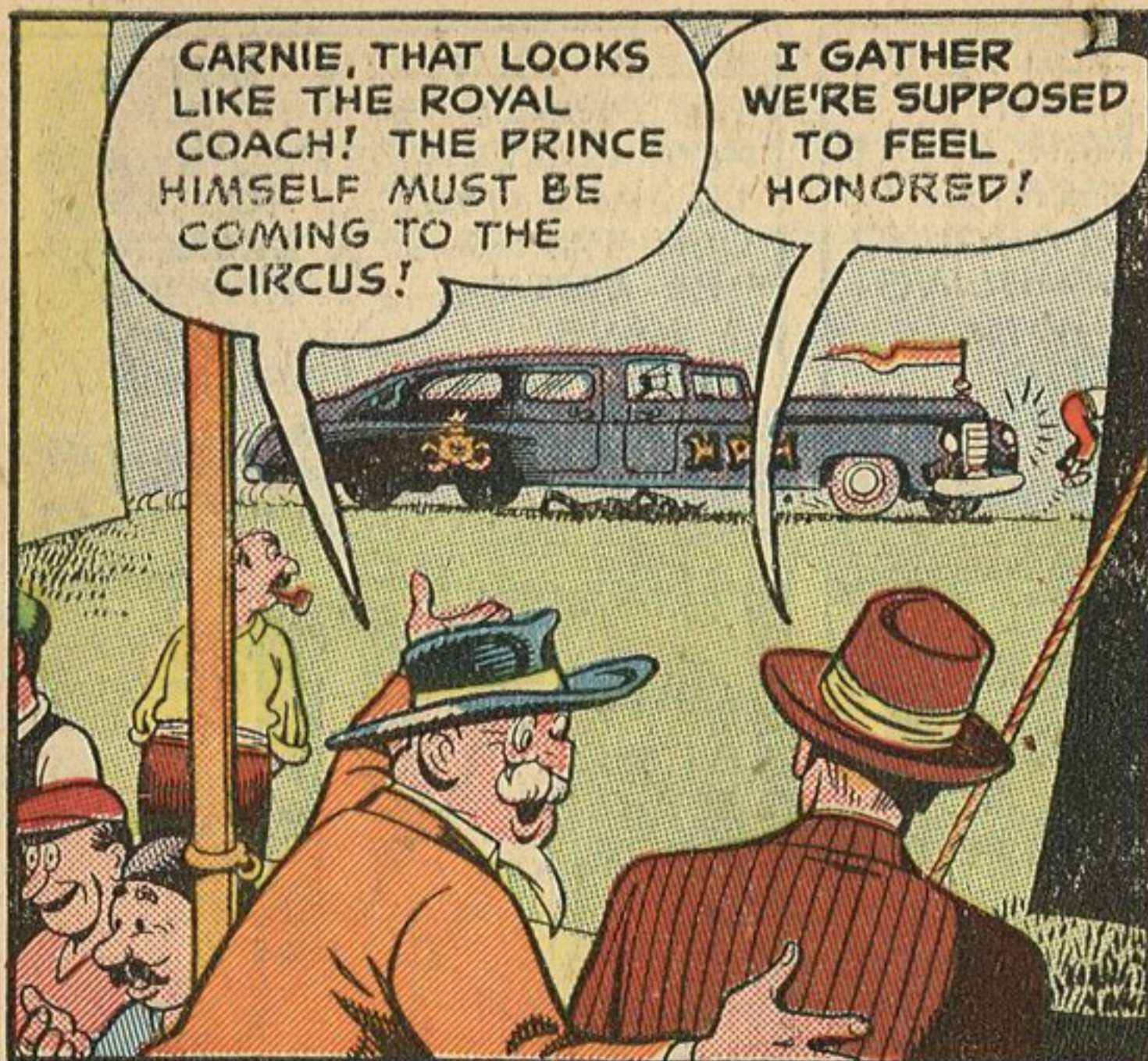
THAT'S RIGHT!

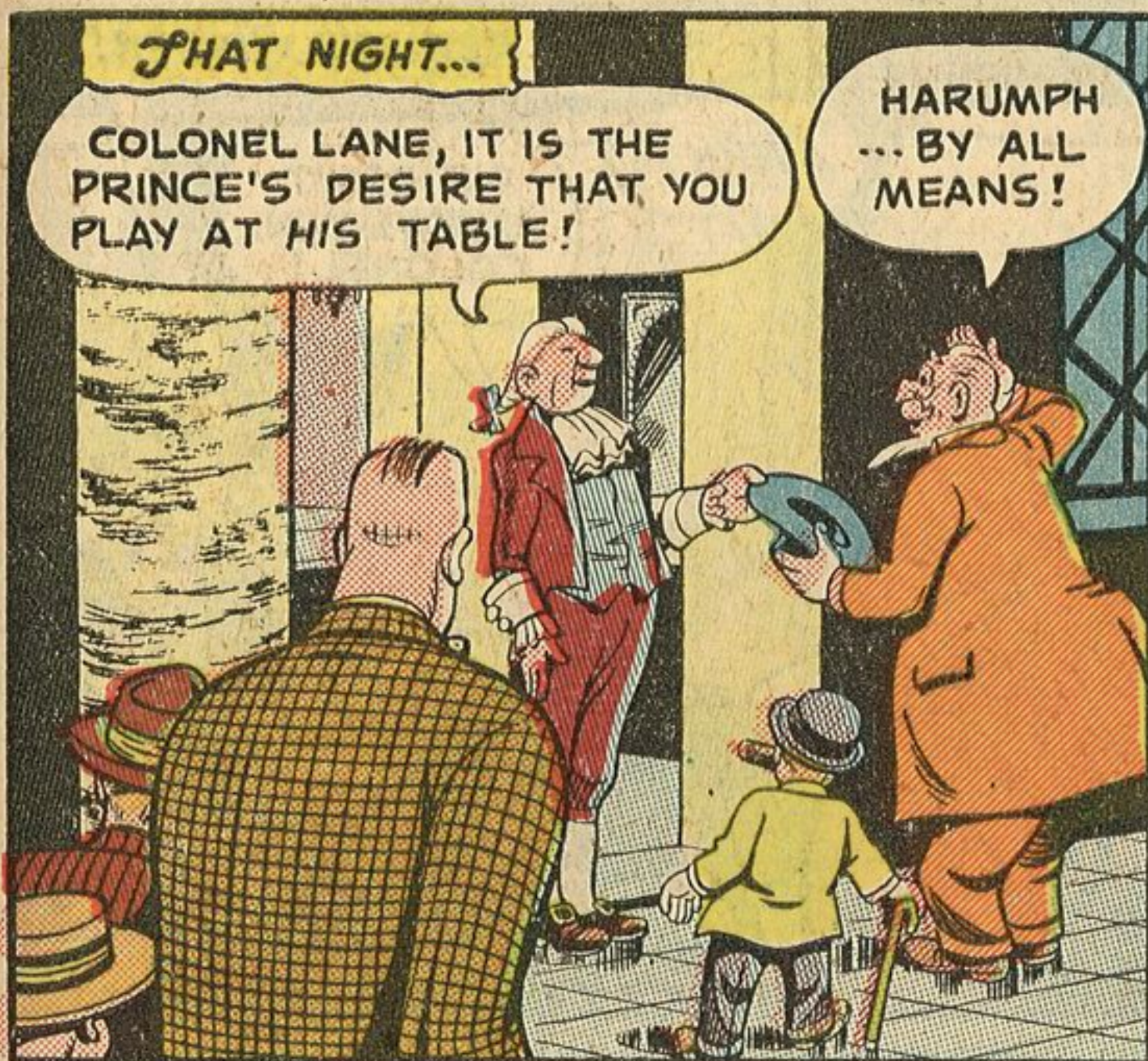


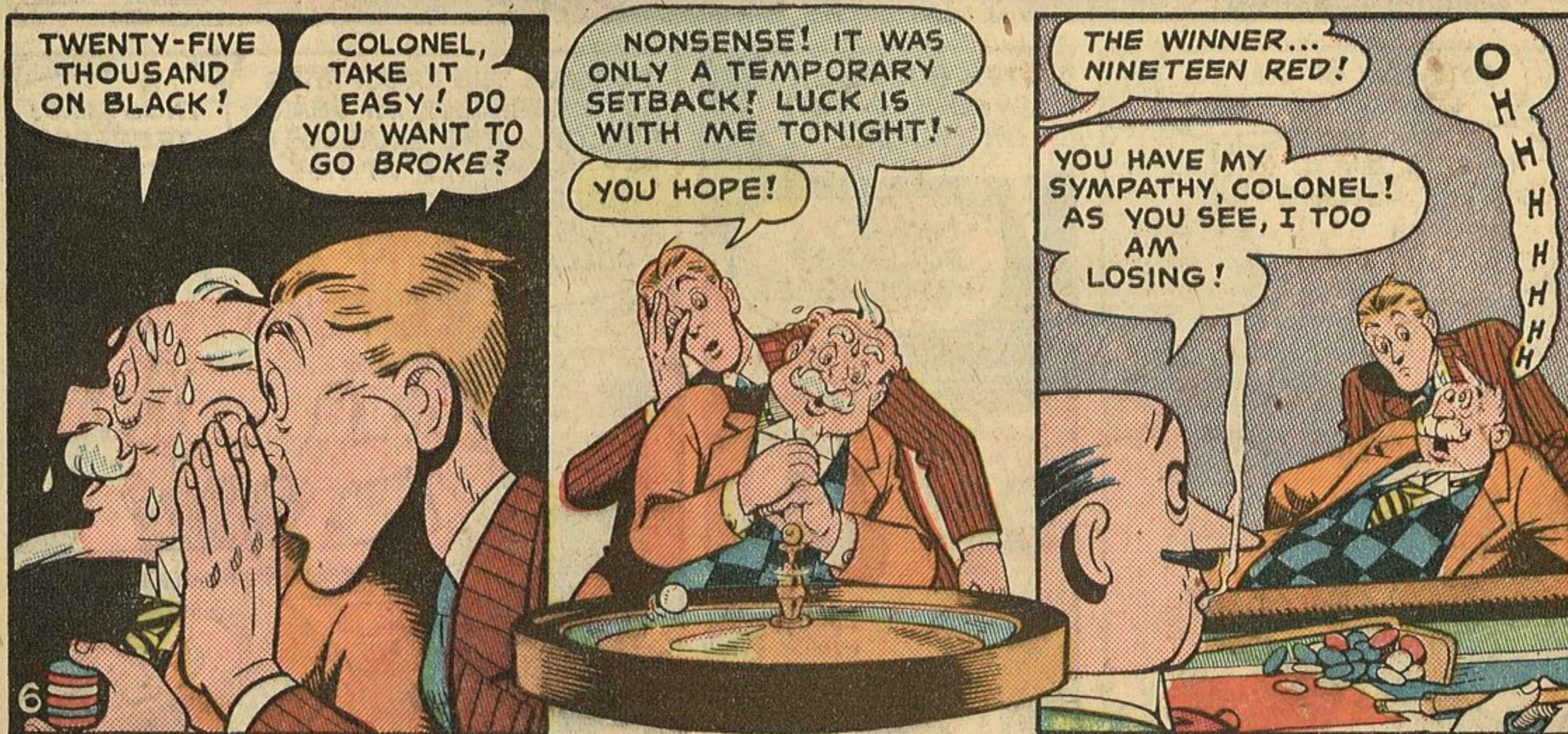
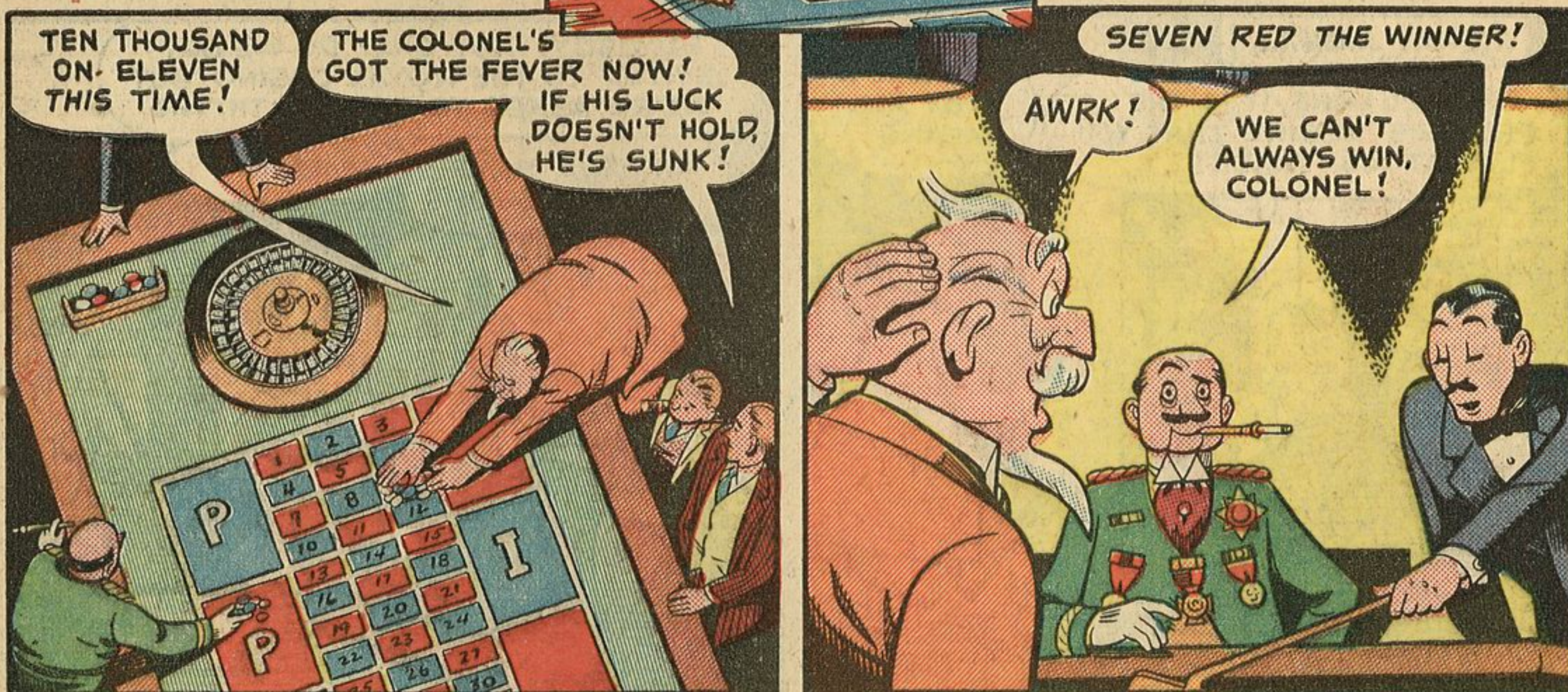
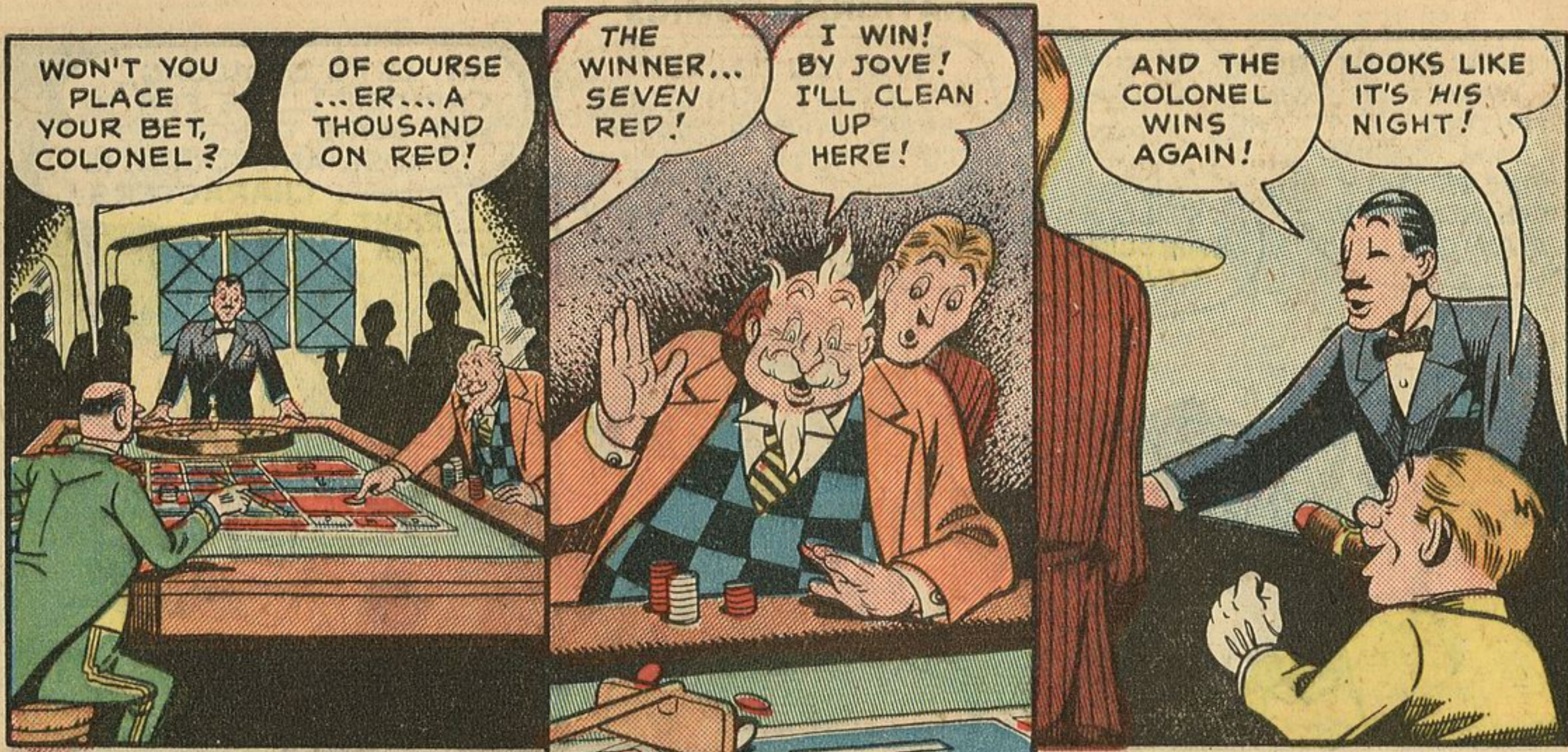


AS THE CIRCUS OPENS...











AGAIN THE WHEEL SPINS...

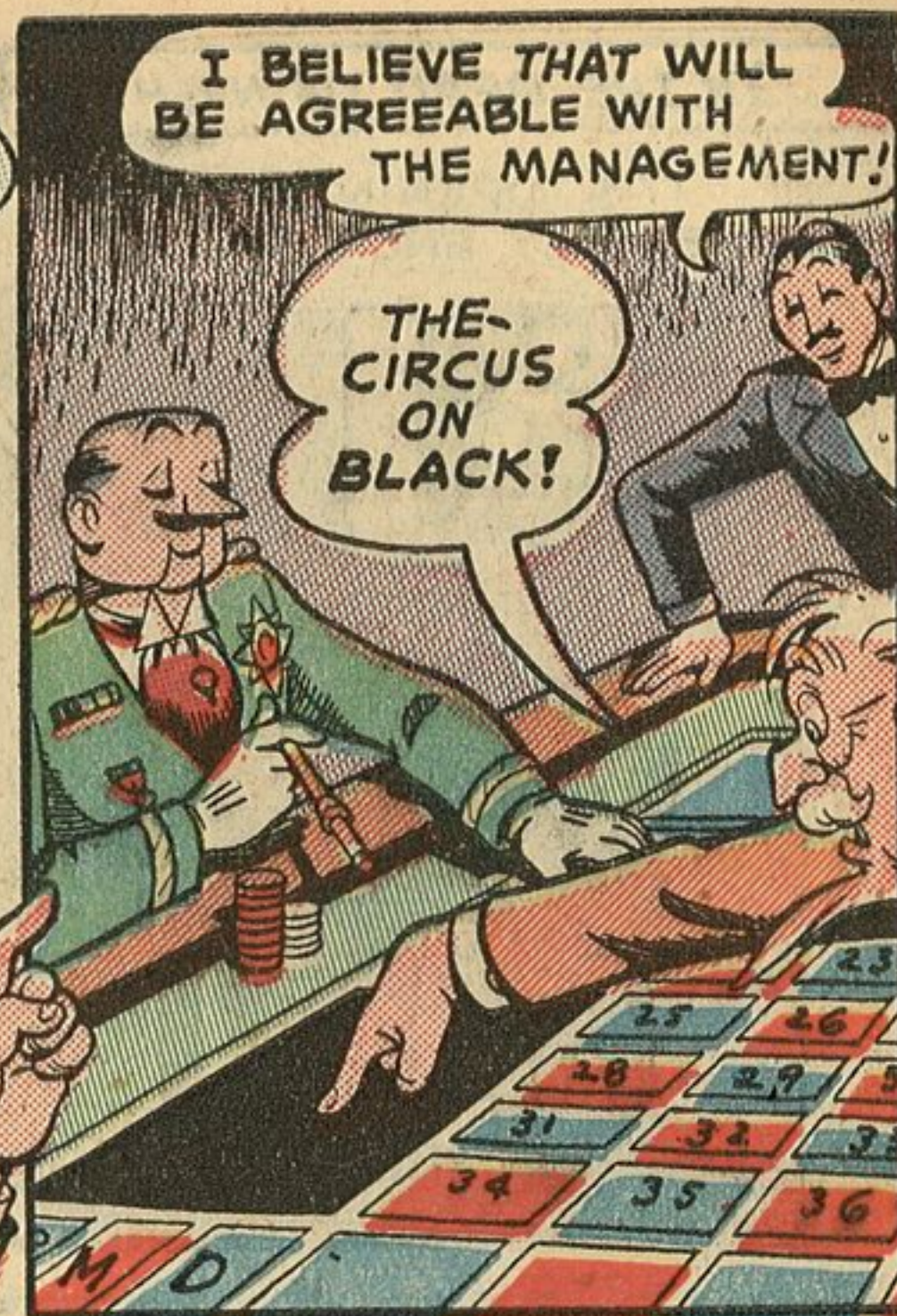
THERE! WE BOTH LOSE AGAIN!

SO I SEE...

AN HOUR LATER...

I HAVE NO MORE MONEY! BUT I'LL BET THE CIRCUS AGAINST THE HUNDRED THOUSAND I HAVE LOST!

COLONEL! NO!



I BELIEVE THAT WILL BE AGREEABLE WITH THE MANAGEMENT!

THE CIRCUS ON BLACK!



I LOSE AGAIN!

THERE GOES EVERYTHING! WE'RE STRANDED IN DONTÉ MARLO!



BETTER LUCK NEXT TIME, COLONEL!

THERE WILL BE NO NEXT TIME!



LOOKS LIKE THE PRINCE TOOK YOU, COLONEL...

THE PRINCE? BUT HE LOST TOO!



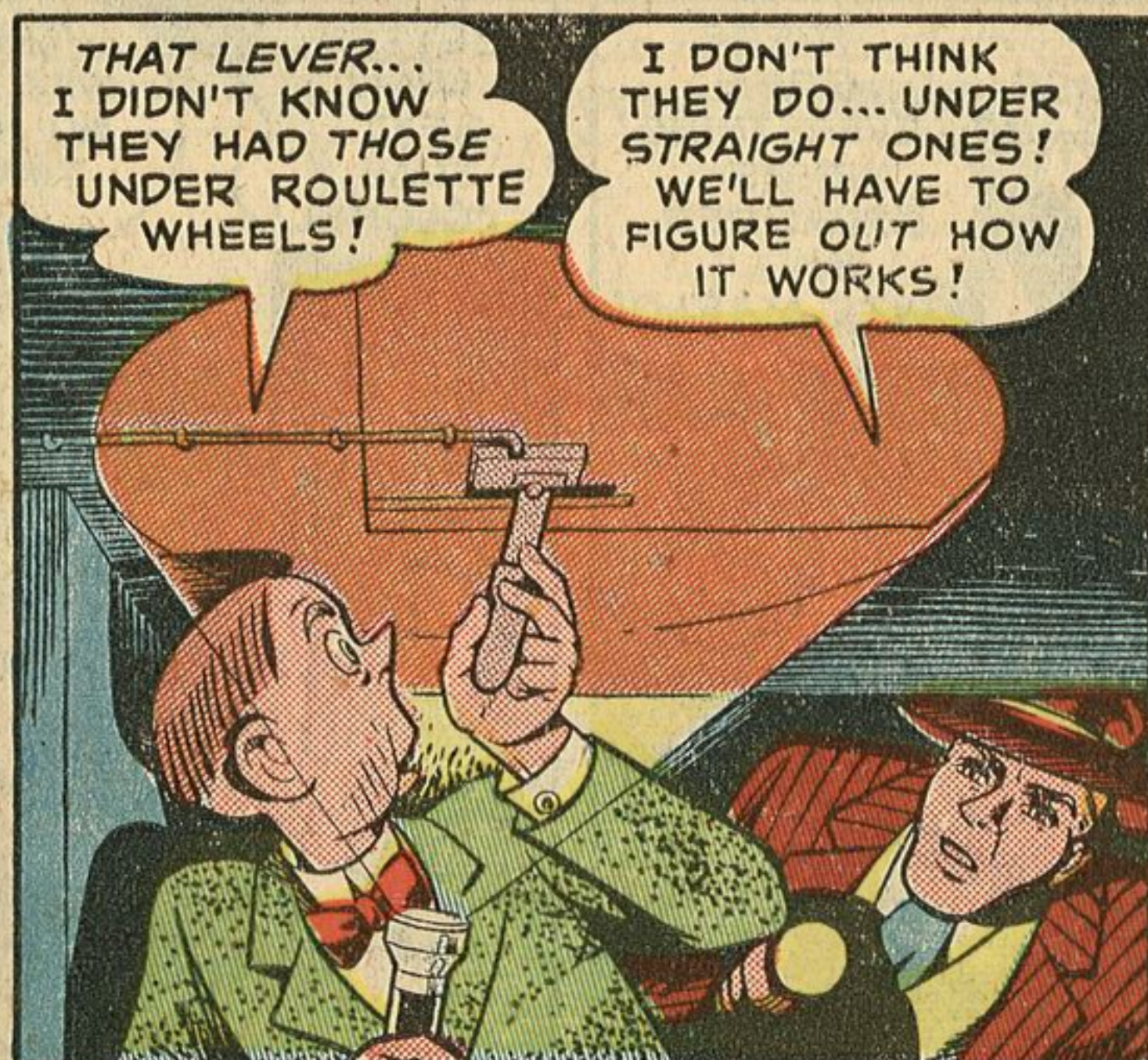
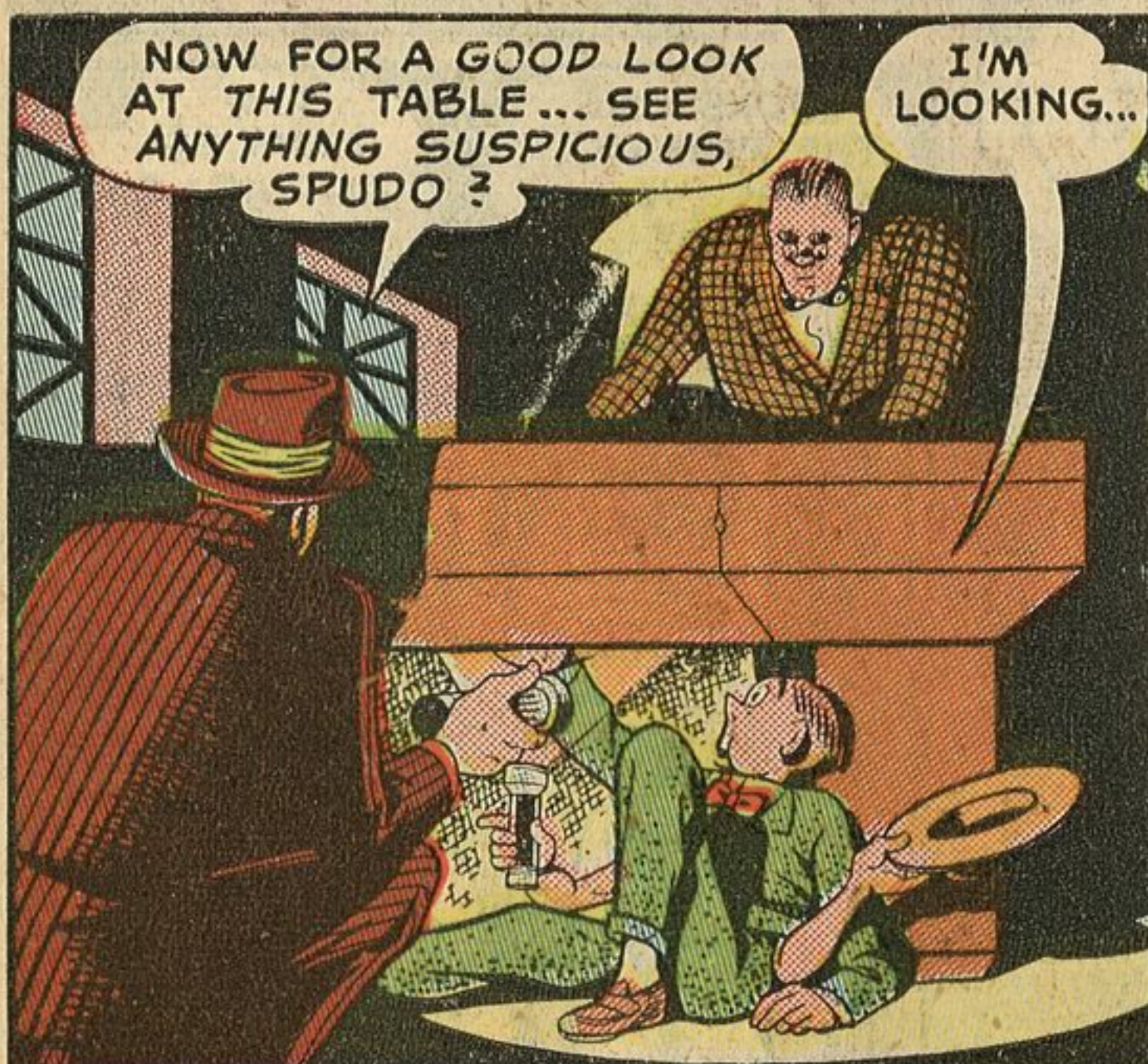
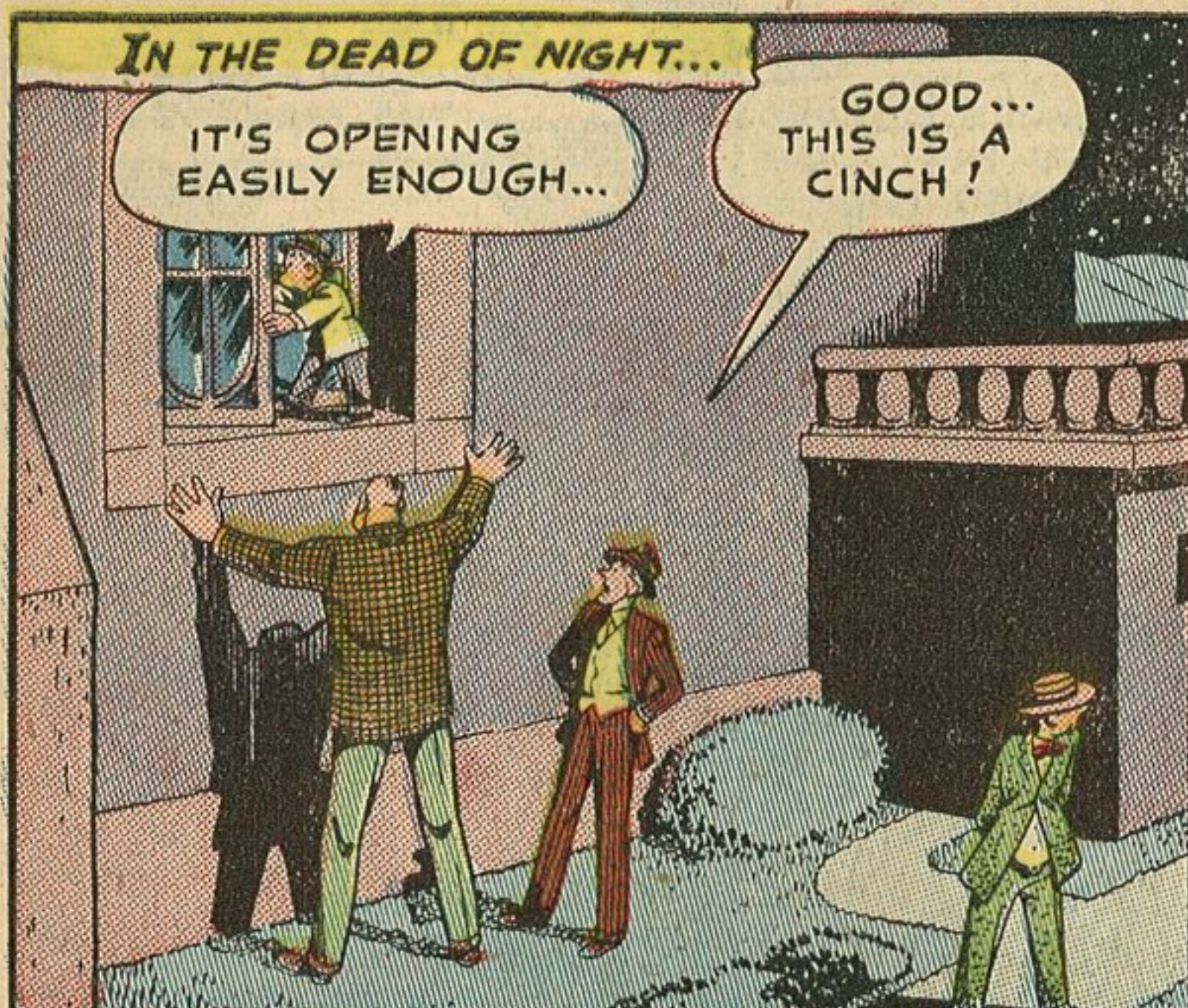
SURE, BUT THE PRINCE OWNS THE ROYAL CASINO SO HE LOST TO HIMSELF!

I NEVER THOUGHT OF THAT! FORGIVE ME, BOYS... I'VE BROUGHT RUIN DOWN ON ALL OF US! MY ROTTEN LUCK!



SOMETHING TELLS ME IT WASN'T ALL LUCK! LET'S GET THE COLONEL BACK TO THE CIRCUS AND MAKE ANOTHER VISIT TO THE CASINO AFTER THEY CLOSE!

A LITTLE SLEUTHING, EH? SUITS ME!



IF YOU STAND RIGHT THERE, IT'LL BE A CINCH FOR YOU TO HOLD THE LEVER BACK EVERYTIME THE CROUPIER TRIES TO MAKE IT WORK... THAT'LL MAKE THE WHEEL HONEST, AND WE'LL STAND AS GOOD A CHANCE AS THE HOUSE...

I GET IT... EVERYBODY'LL SEE TWO OF MY HANDS ABOVE THE TABLE, BUT I'LL BE WORKING THE LEVER WITH MY THIRD HAND!

NEXT DAY...

HERE COMES THE PRINCE'S AIDE TO LOOK OVER HIS HIGHNESS' WINNINGS... I TOLD YOU HE WAS GETTING IT, COLONEL!

DON'T RUB IT IN, CARNIE!

AND YOU UNDERSTAND THAT SINCE THE CIRCUS IS NOW THE PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL TREASURY, IT IS MY DUTY TO TAKE IT OVER!

WE UNDERSTAND PERFECTLY! WOULD YOU BE GOOD ENOUGH TO ASK THE PRINCE IF THE COLONEL MAY TRY HIS LUCK ONCE MORE?

CARNIE, YOU'RE MAD! I'M BROKE!

LET ME EXPLAIN, SIR... AS THE COLONEL'S EMPLOYEES, WE WOULD LIKE TO RISK OUR OWN MONEY IN AN ATTEMPT TO RECOUP SOME OF HIS LOSSES...

I THINK YOUR REQUEST WILL APPEAL TO THE PRINCE'S GENEROUS NATURE! A MESSENGER WILL CONFIRM WHETHER YOU MAY VISIT THE ROYAL CASINO TONIGHT!

CARNIE, IT'S TOO MUCH! I DON'T DESERVE IT!

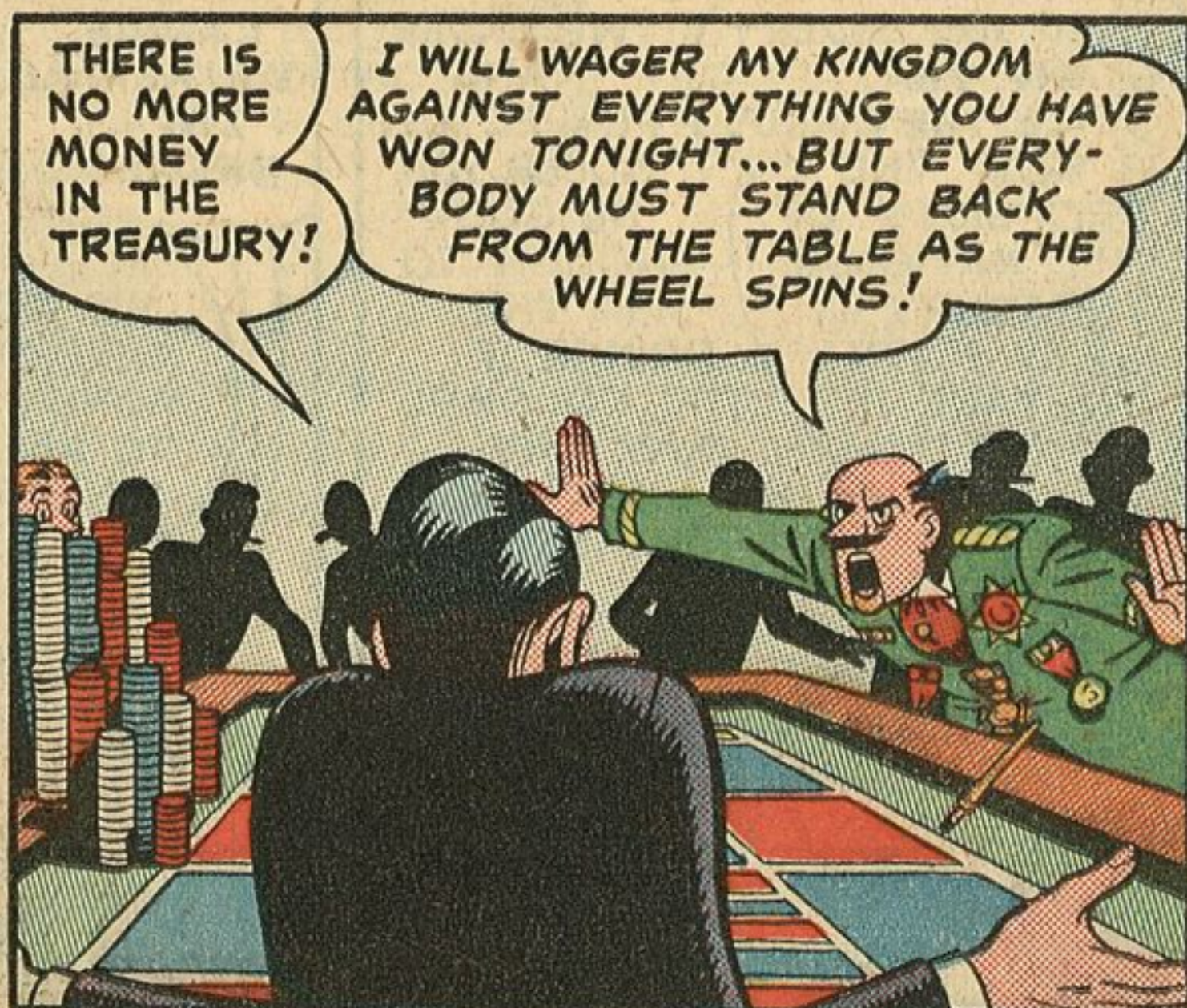
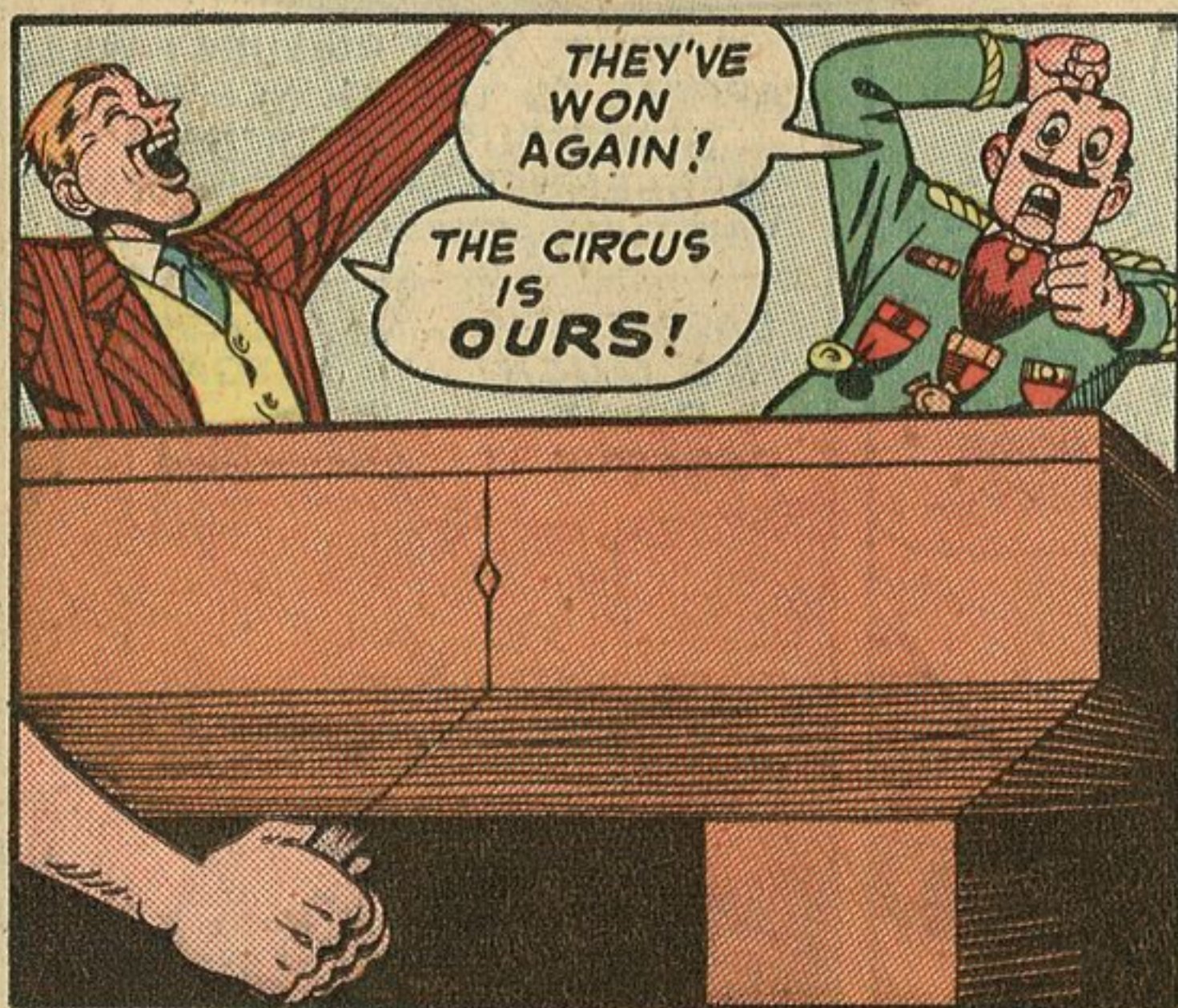
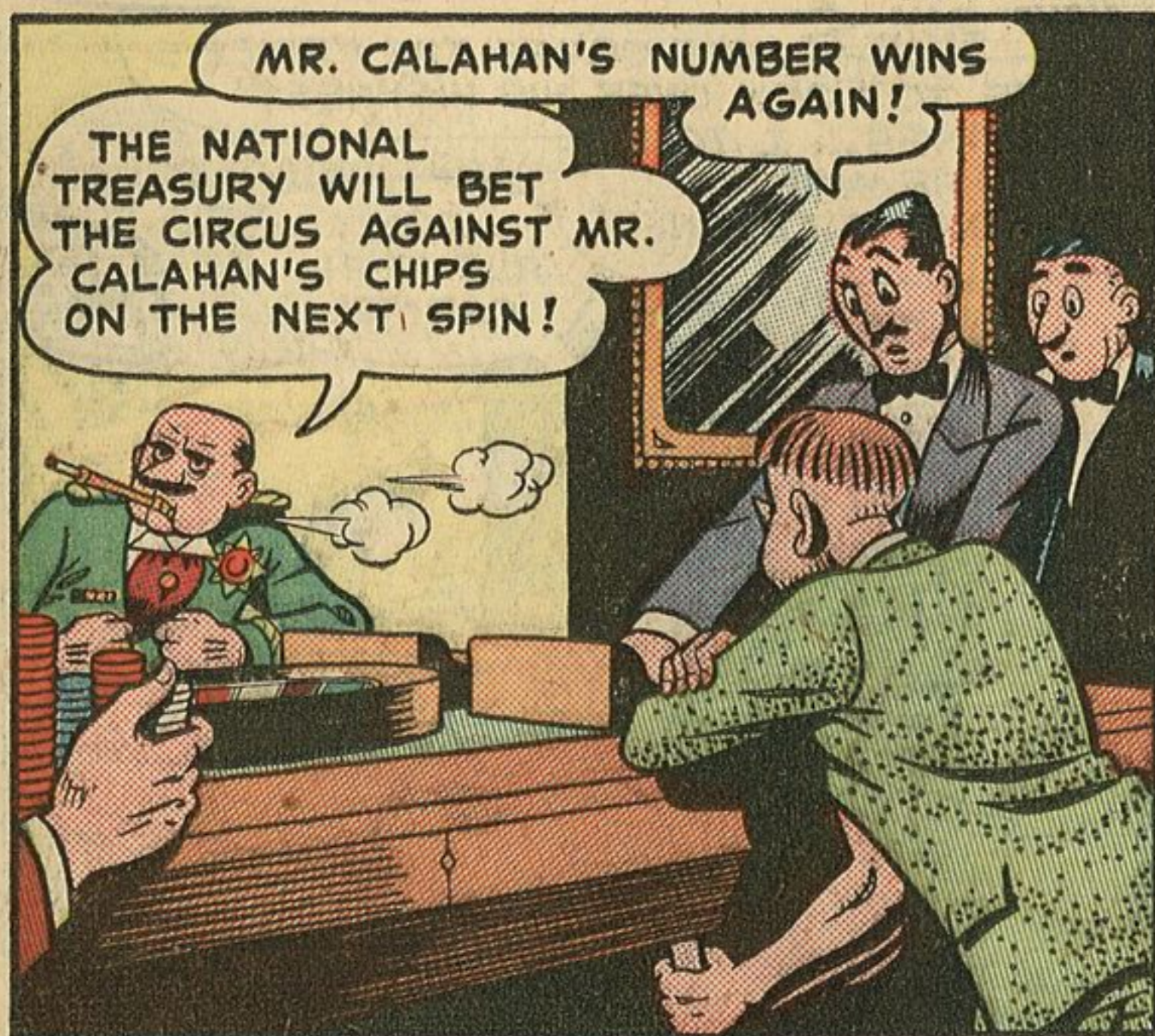
THAT NIGHT...

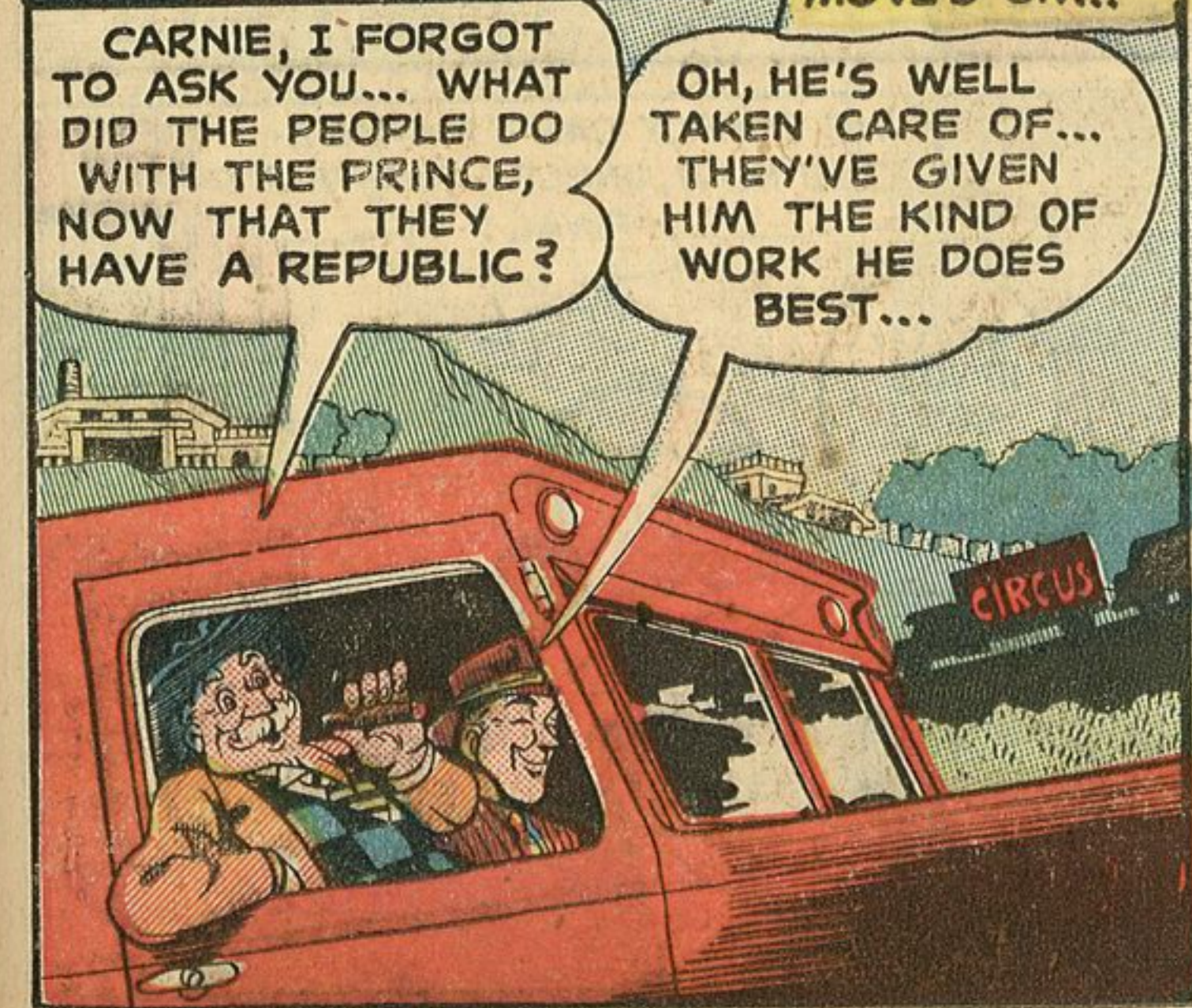
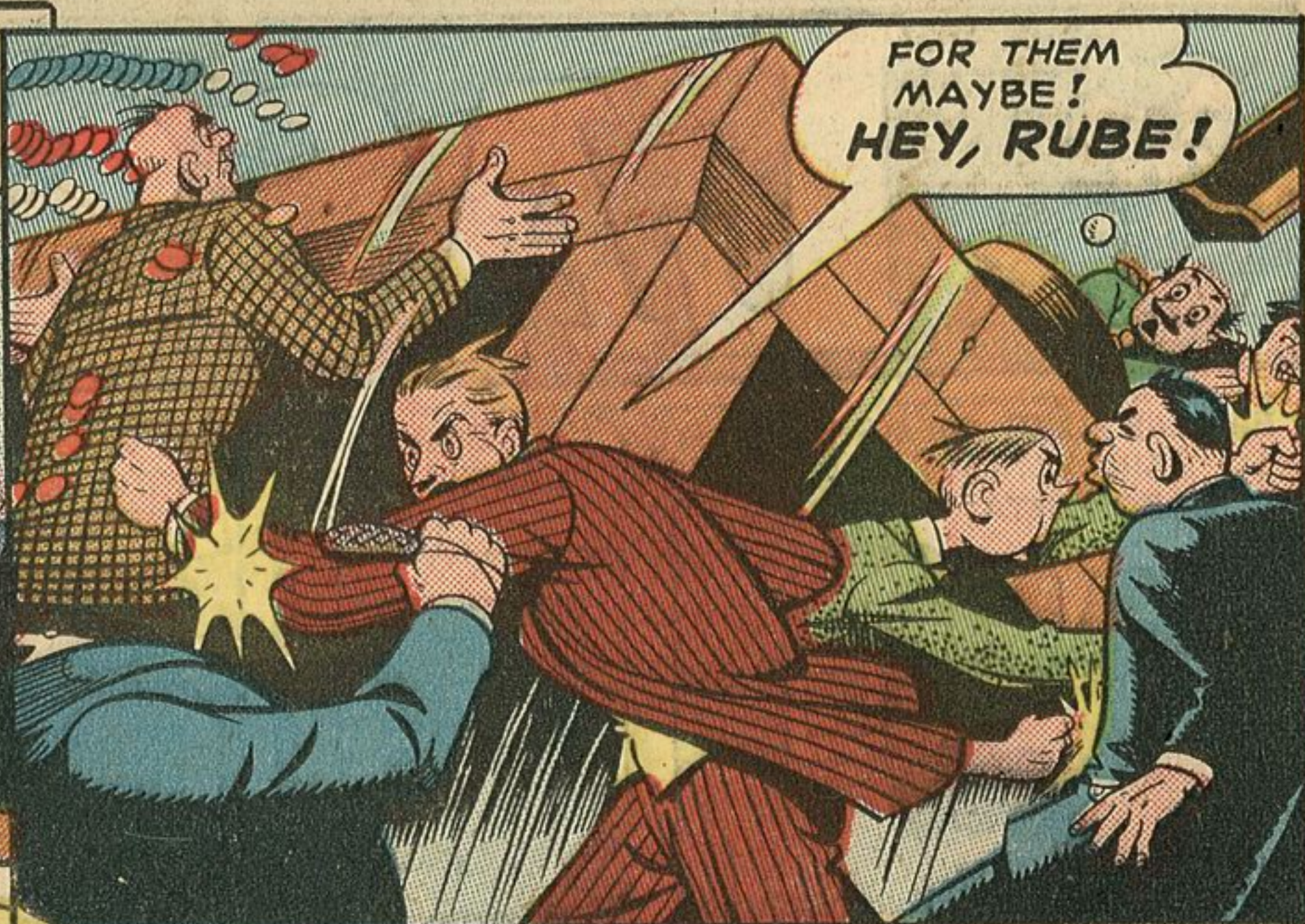
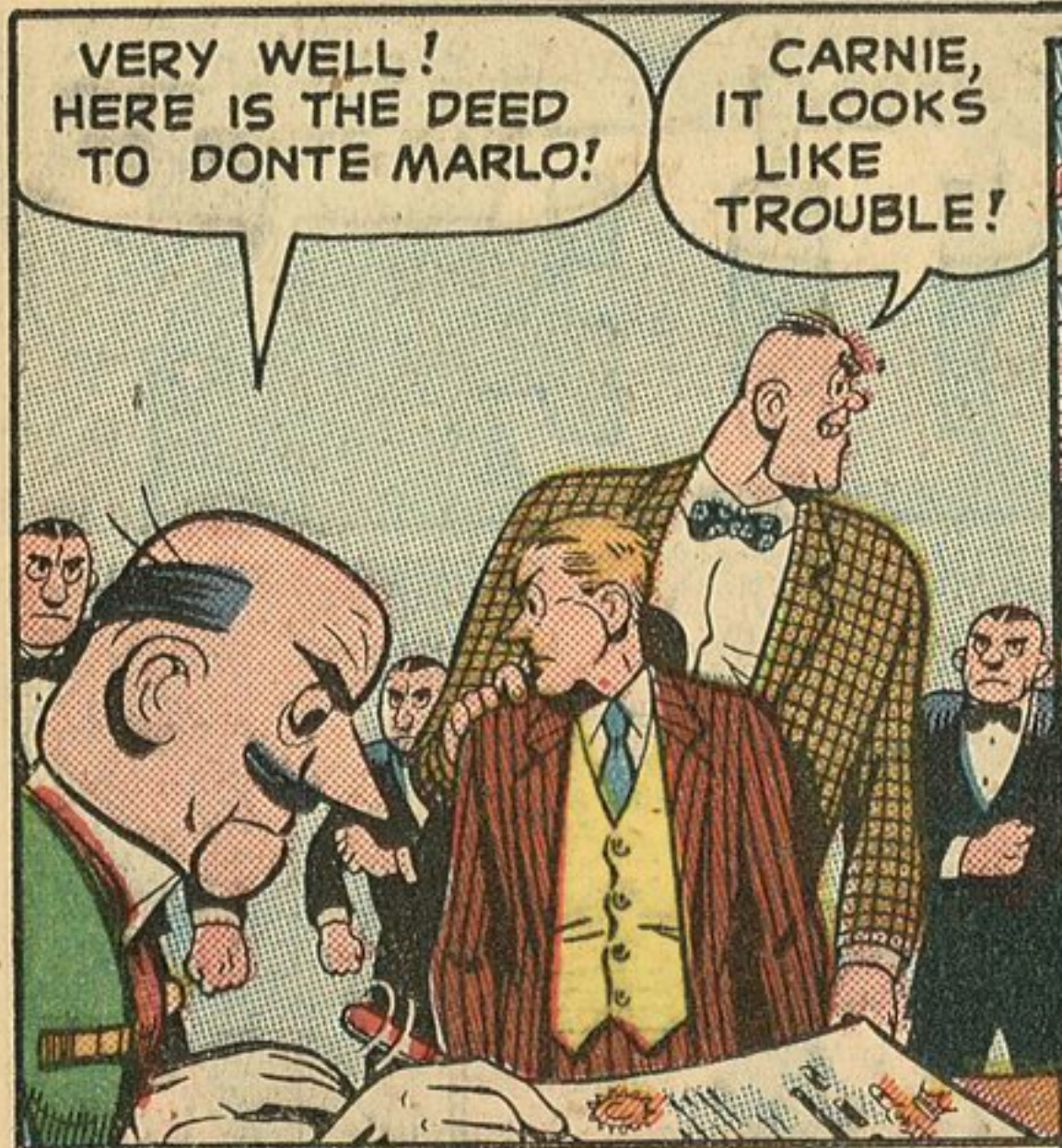
IT'S ALL OUR DOUGH! I HOPE WE'RE LUCKY!

ANYWAY, WE STAND AN EVEN CHANCE WITH SPUDO MAKING THE WHEEL HONEST AT EACH SPIN!

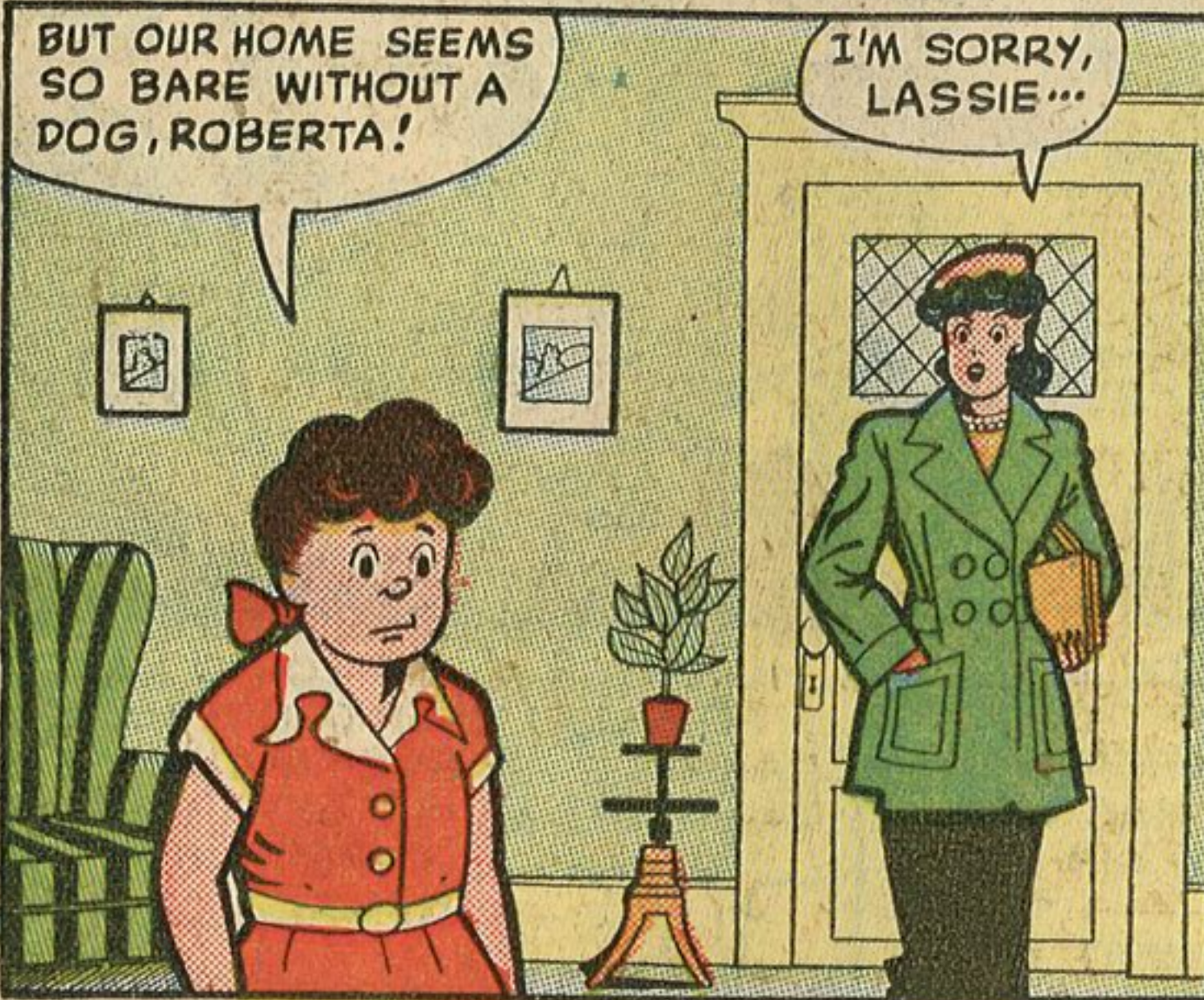
AGAIN AND AGAIN THE WHEEL SPINS...

THIS IS TERRIFIC! THE CROUPIER'S GOING DAFFY TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHY HE CAN'T MAKE THE WHEEL STOP WHERE HE WANTS IT TO!

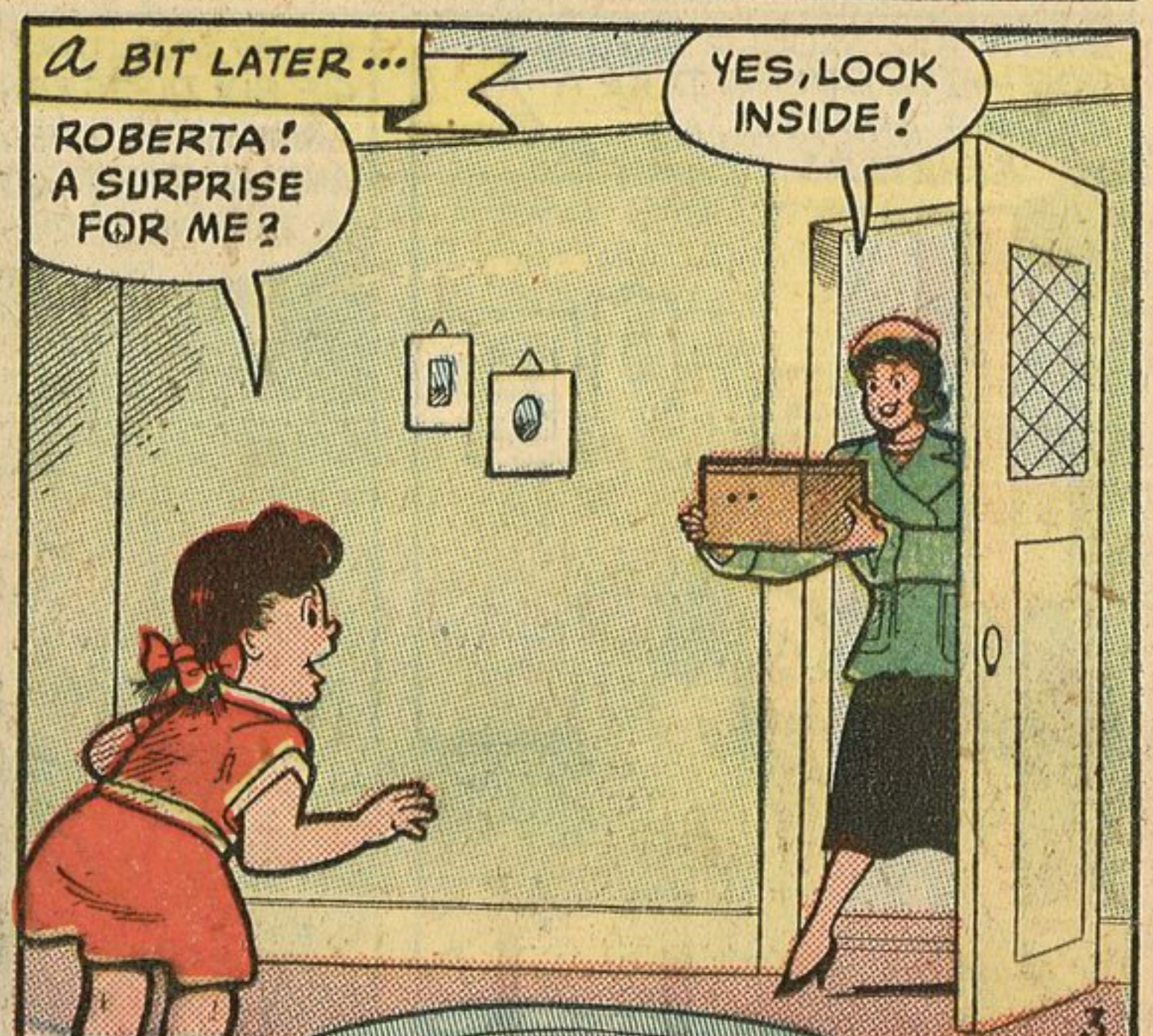
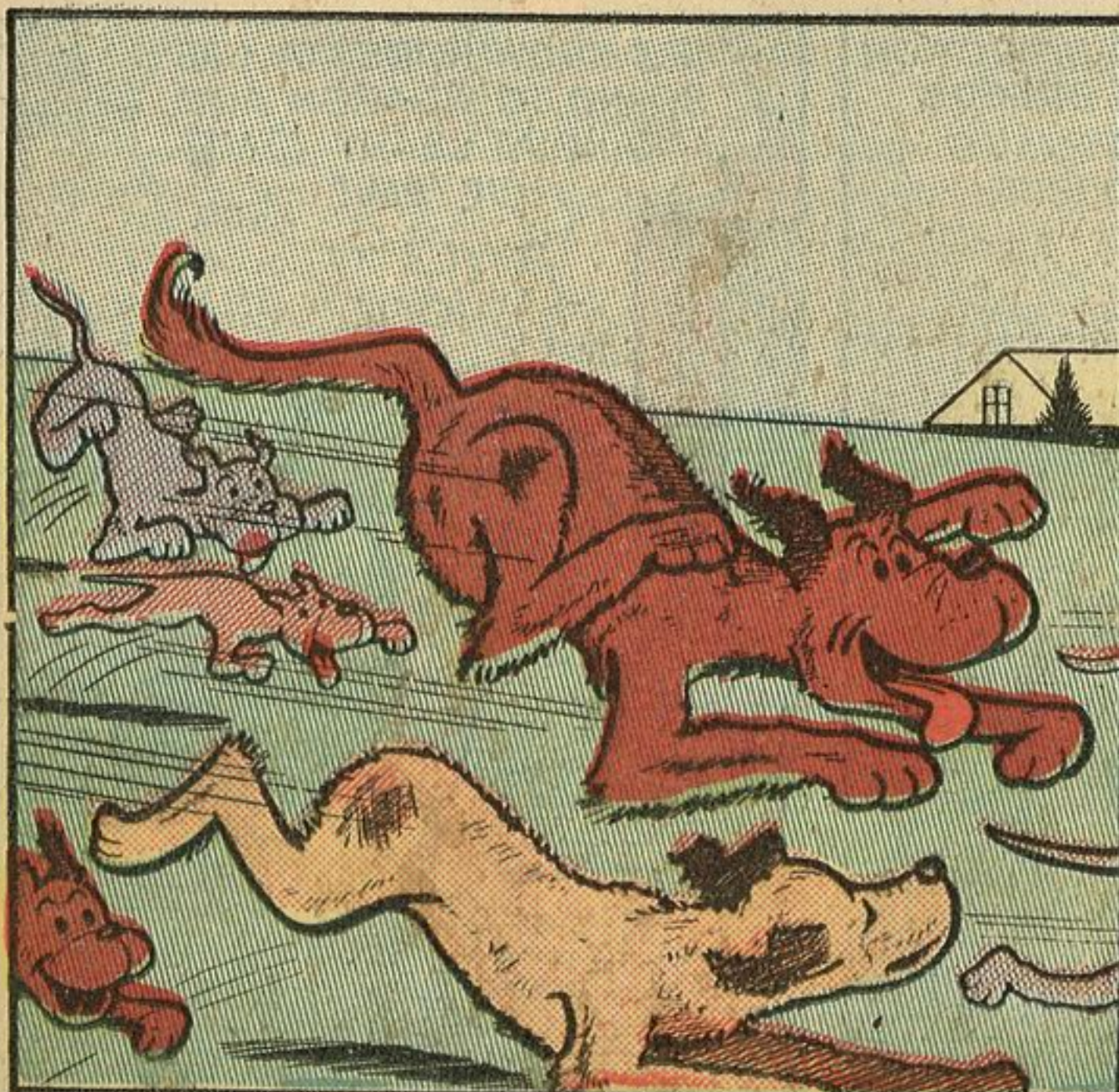
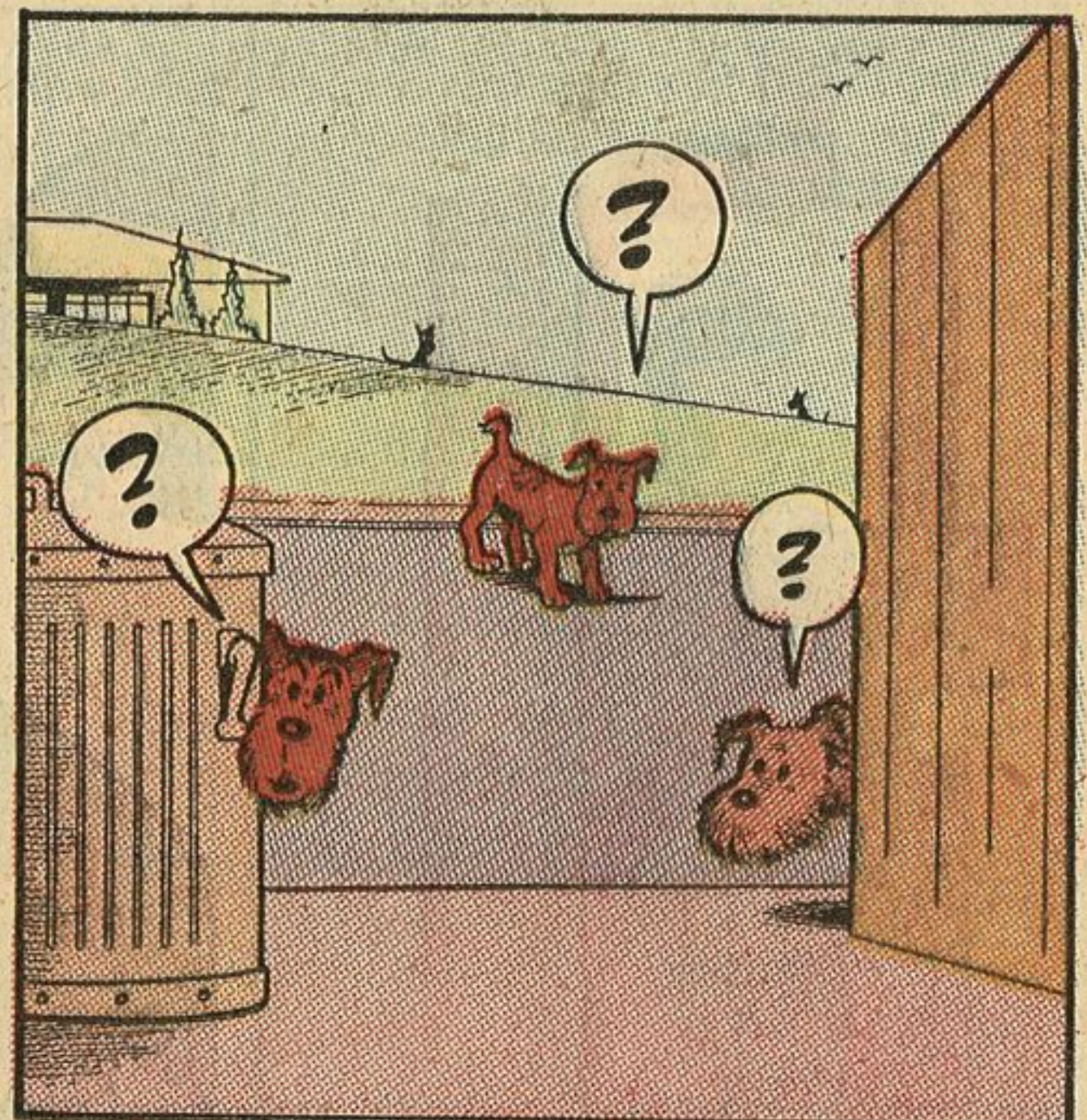
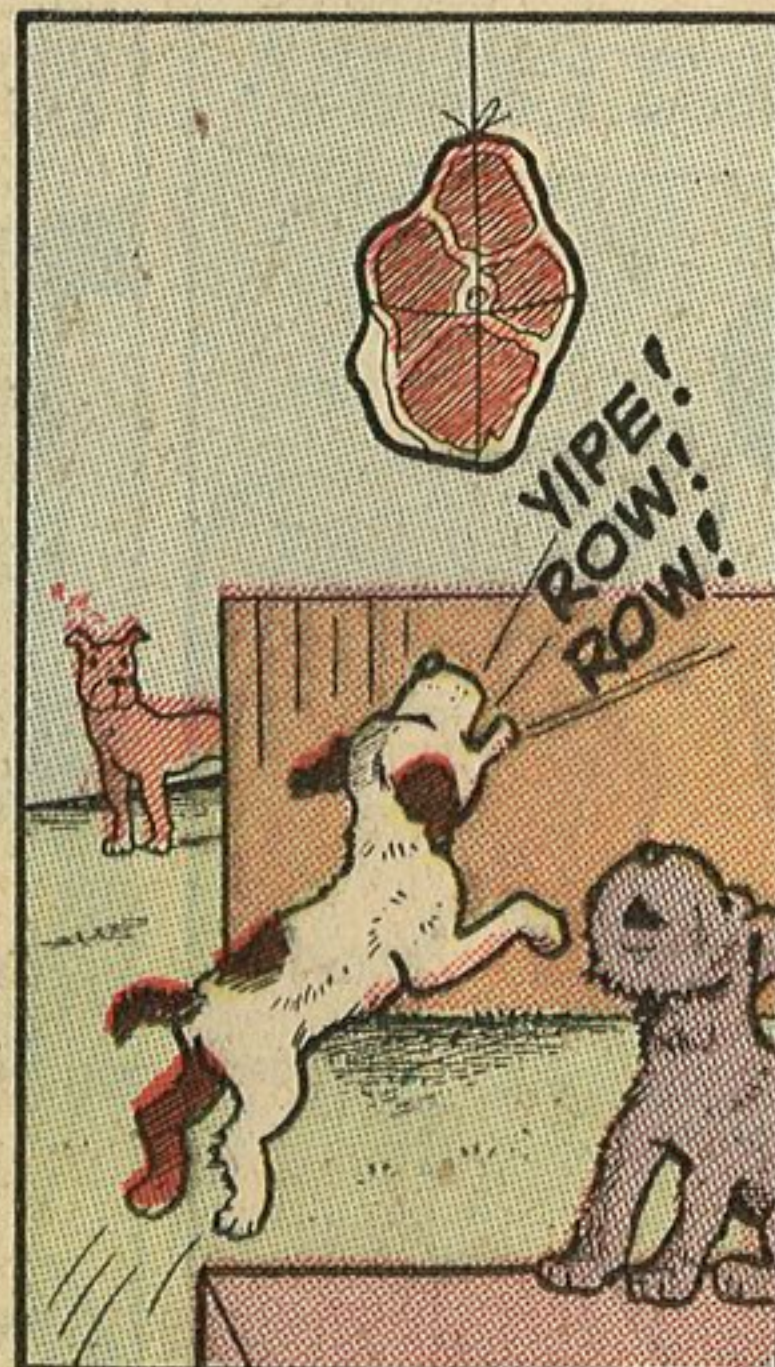
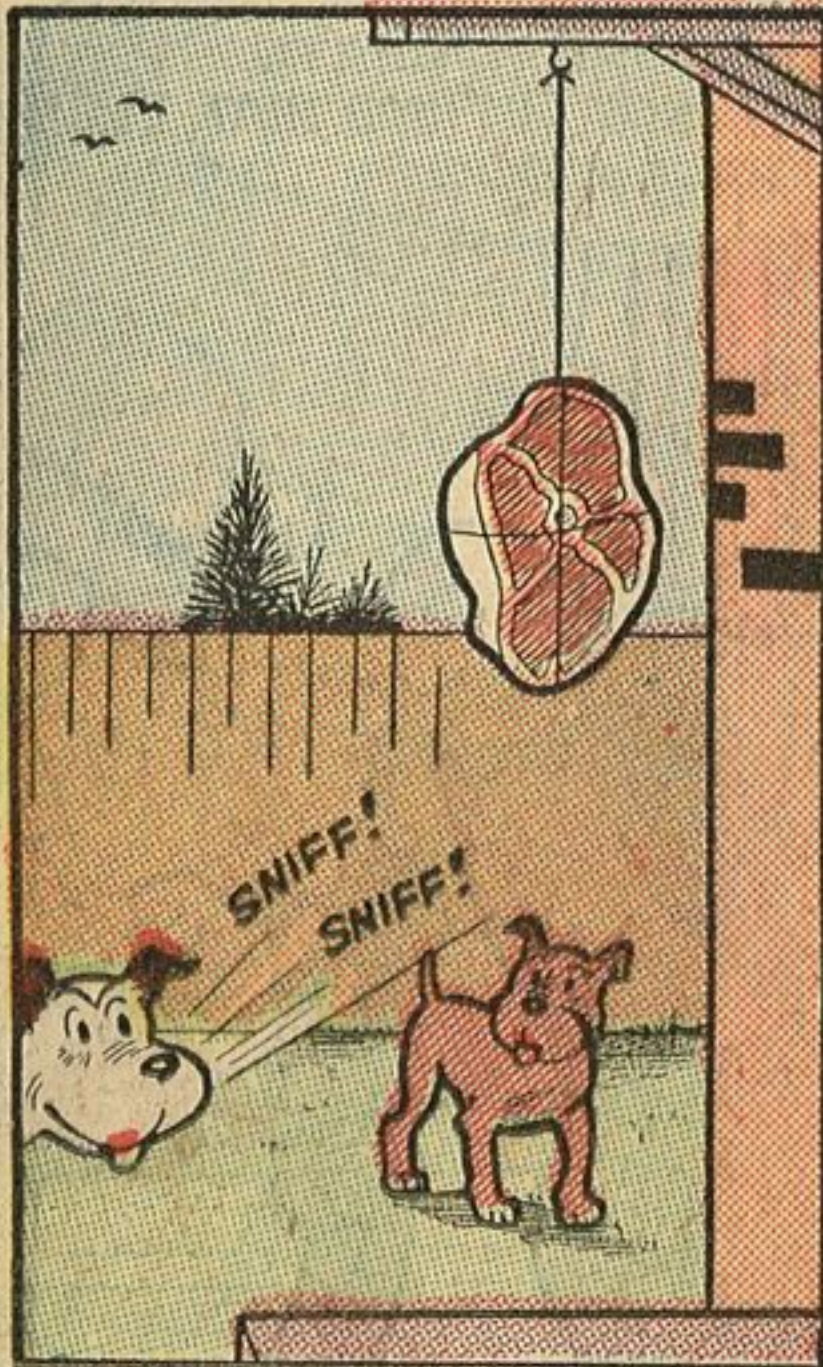


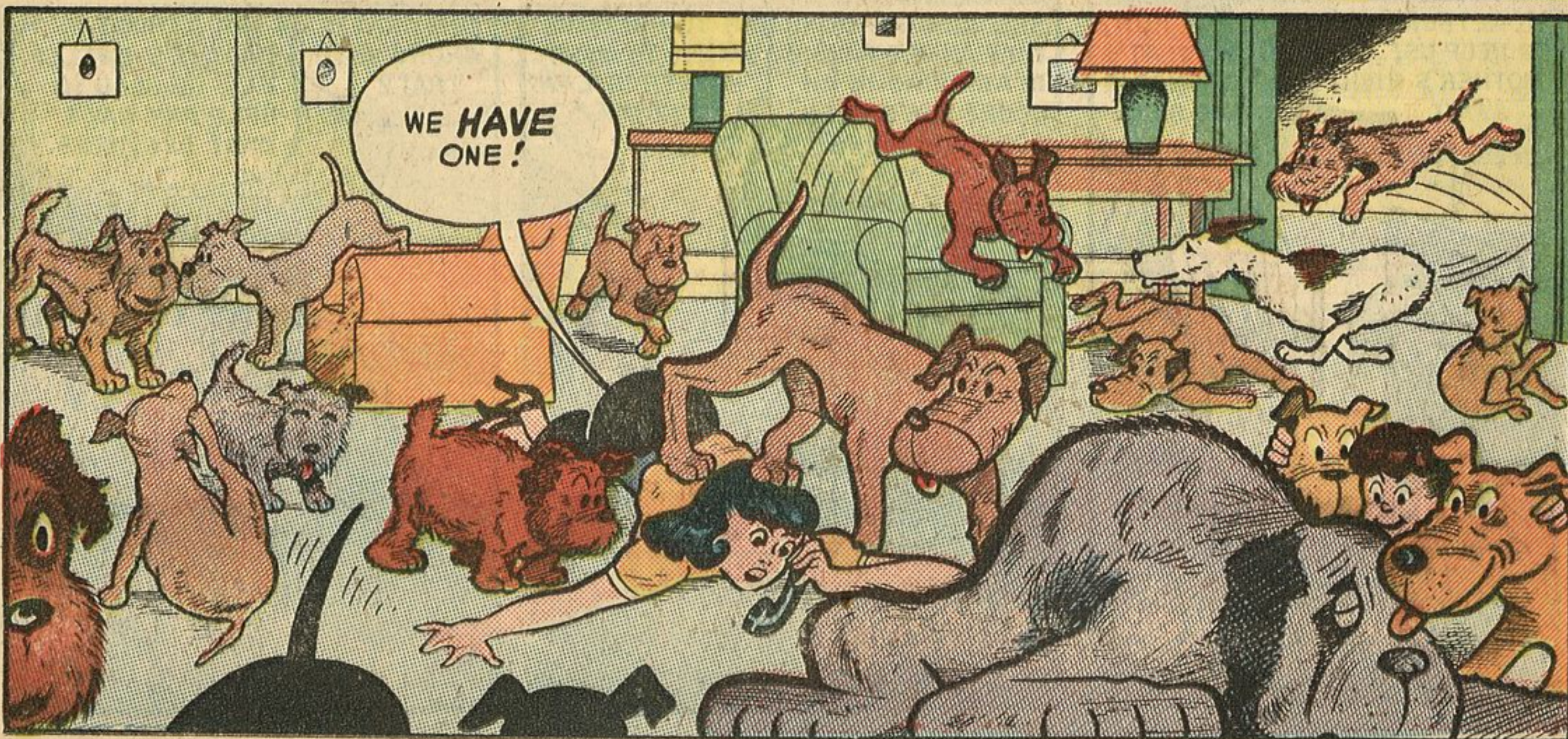


LASSIE









HONEYBUN

HONEYBUN, DO YOU TAKE THIS MAN TO BE YOUR FATHER-IN-LAW?

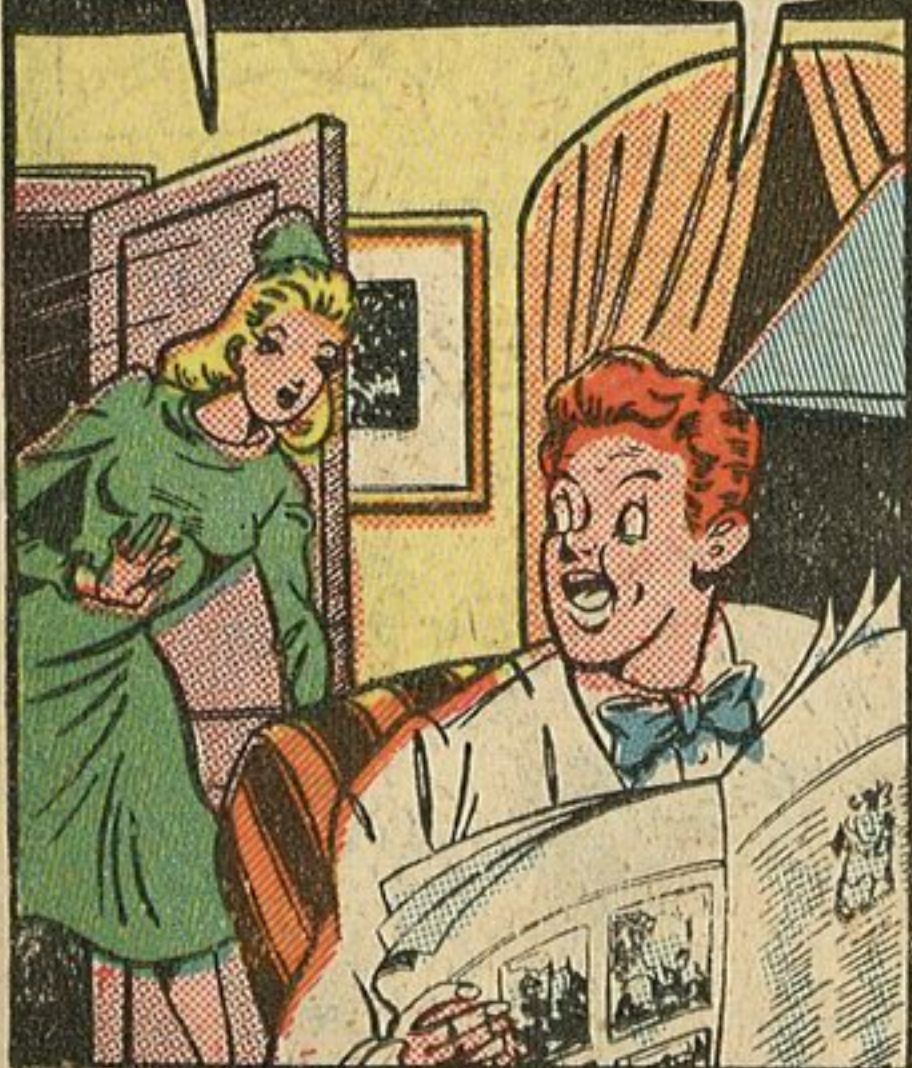
I DO!

WAIT! WHOSE WEDDING IS THIS... HIS OR MINE?



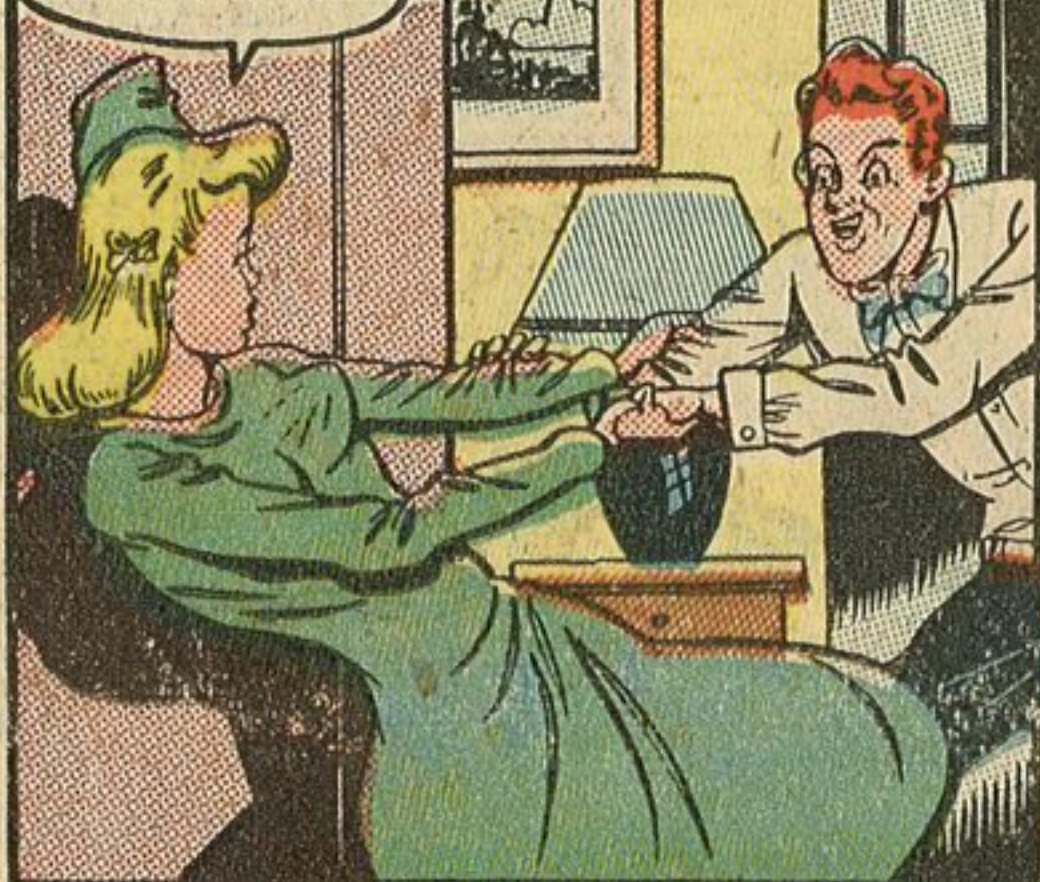
HONEYBUN, YOU'VE GOT TO HELP US! COME TO MOTHER'S RIGHT AWAY!

HUH? WHAT'S WRONG? IS SHE SICK?



SHE JUST GOT WORD THAT AN OLD FRIEND IS ARRIVING IN AN HOUR! SHE'S BEEN CORRESPONDING WITH HIM AND THINKS HE MAY BE COMING TO PROPOSE!

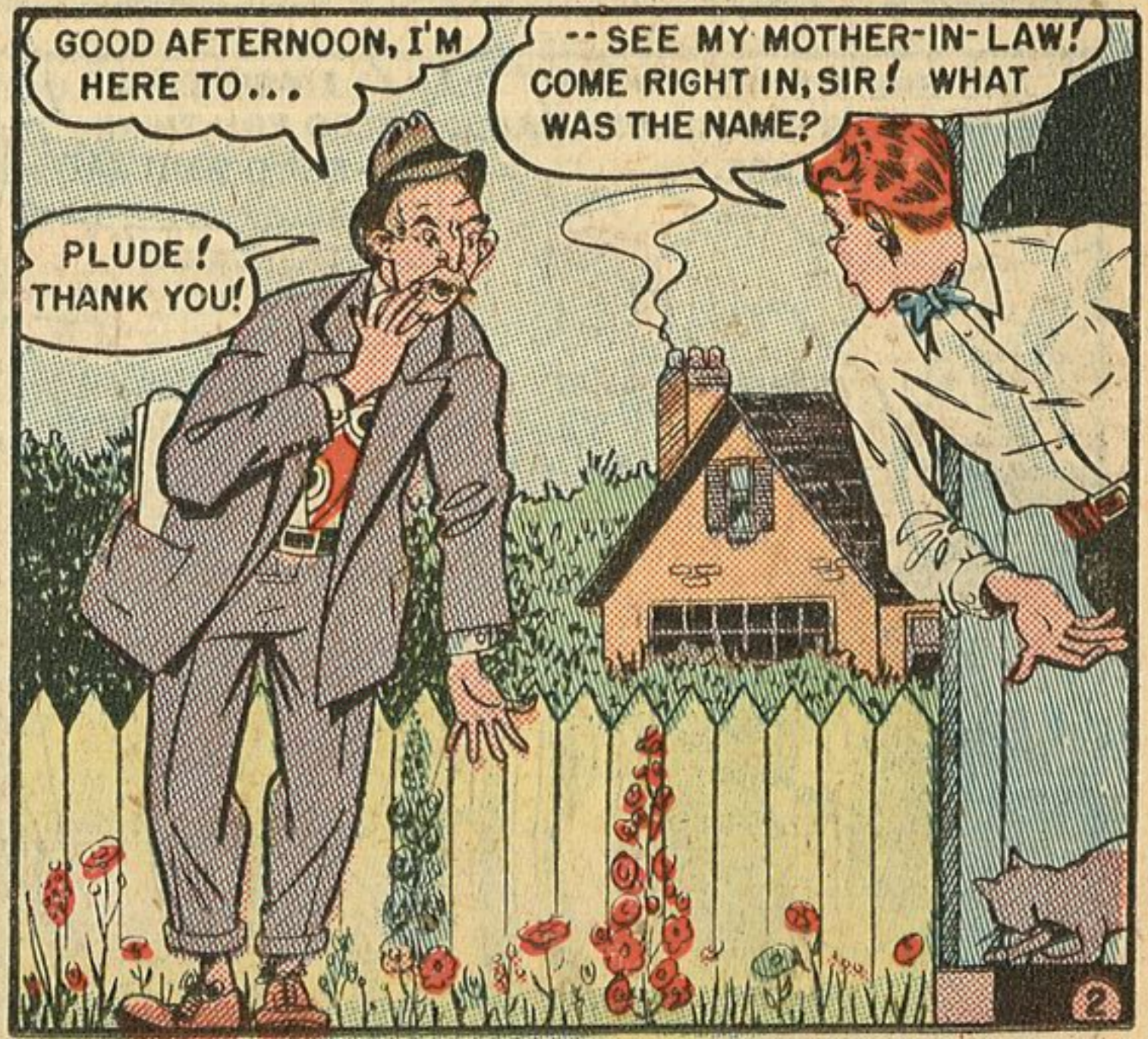
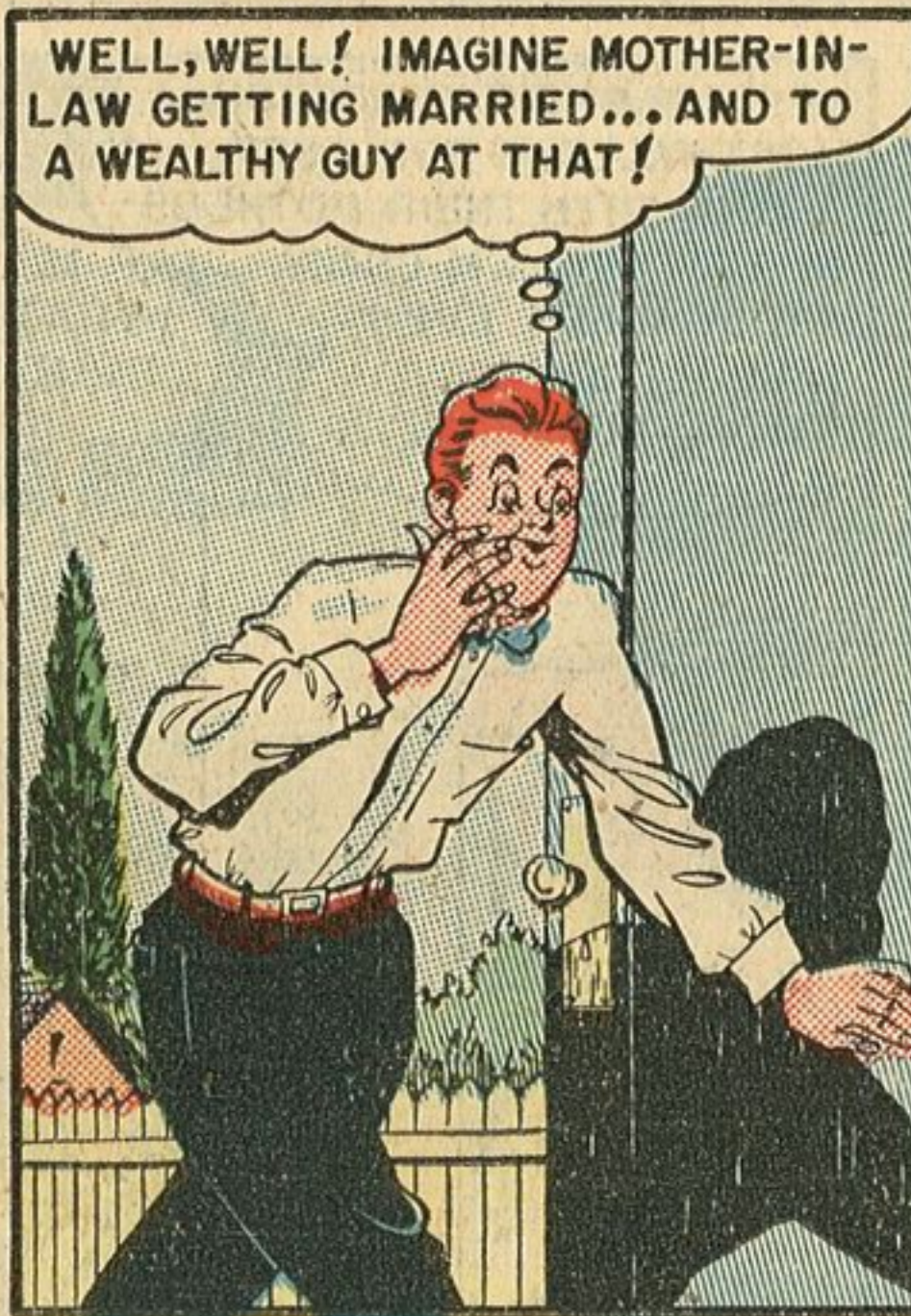
YOU MEAN HE WANTS TO MARRY MOTHER-IN-LAW? YEOW!!

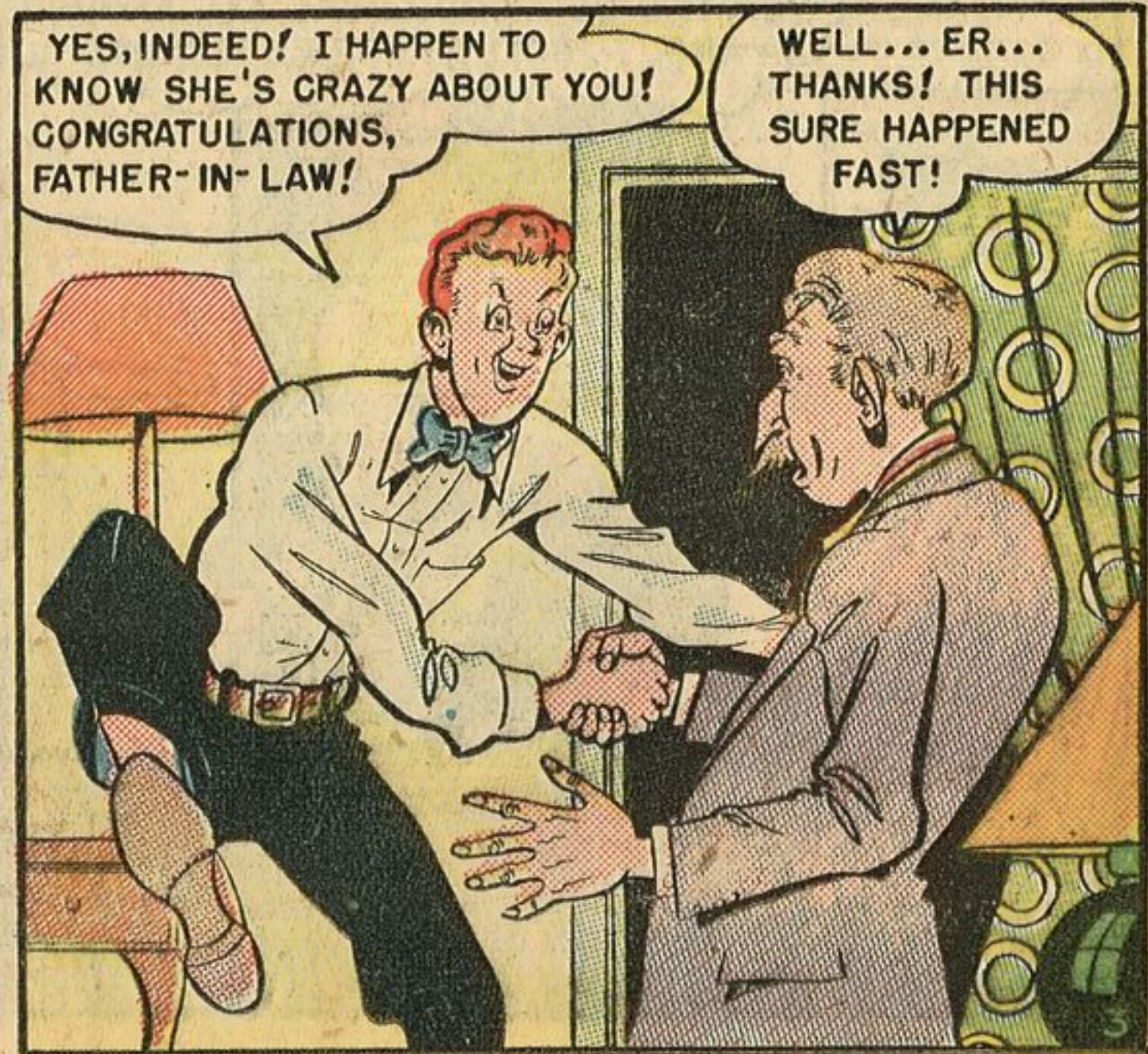
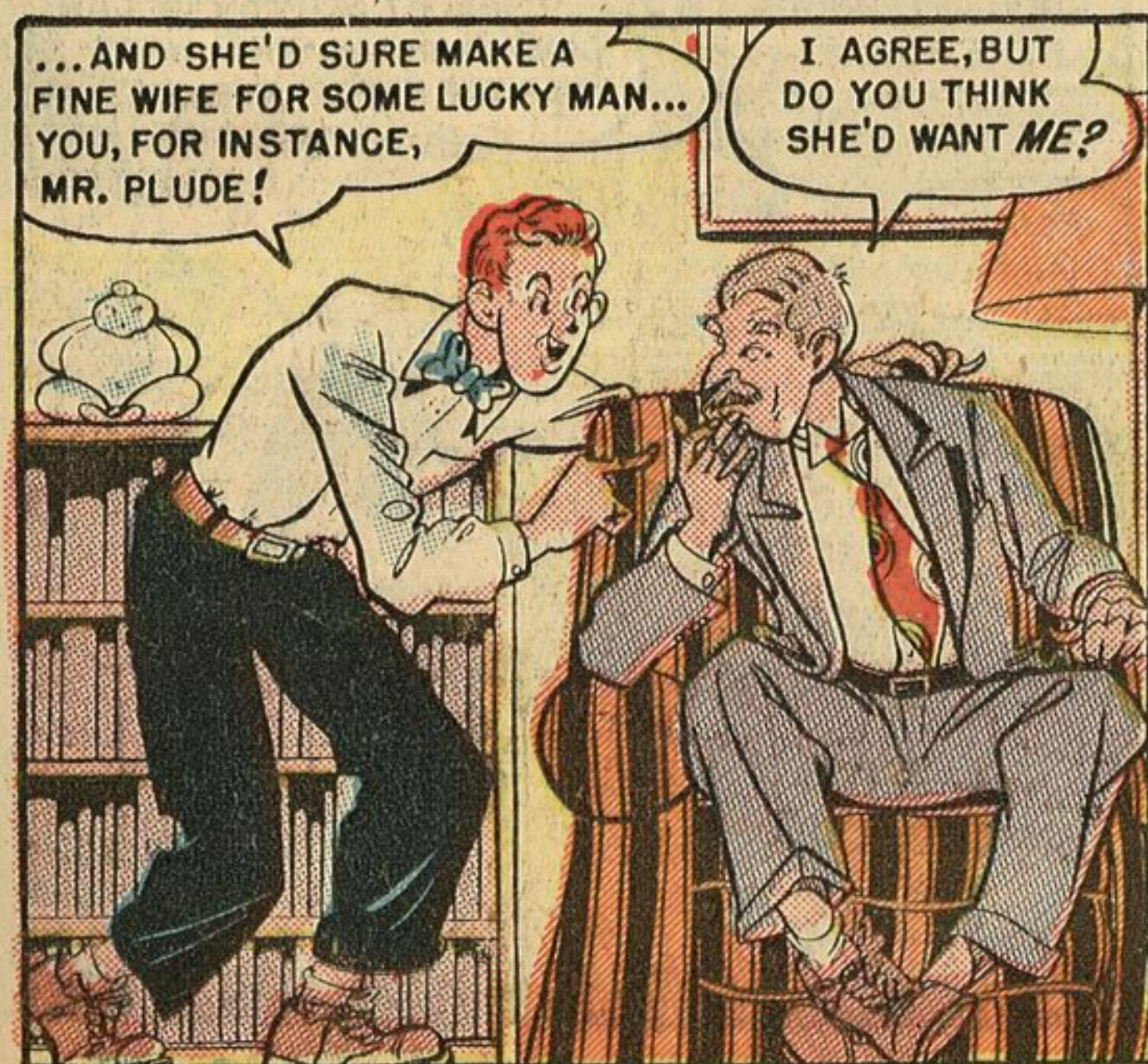
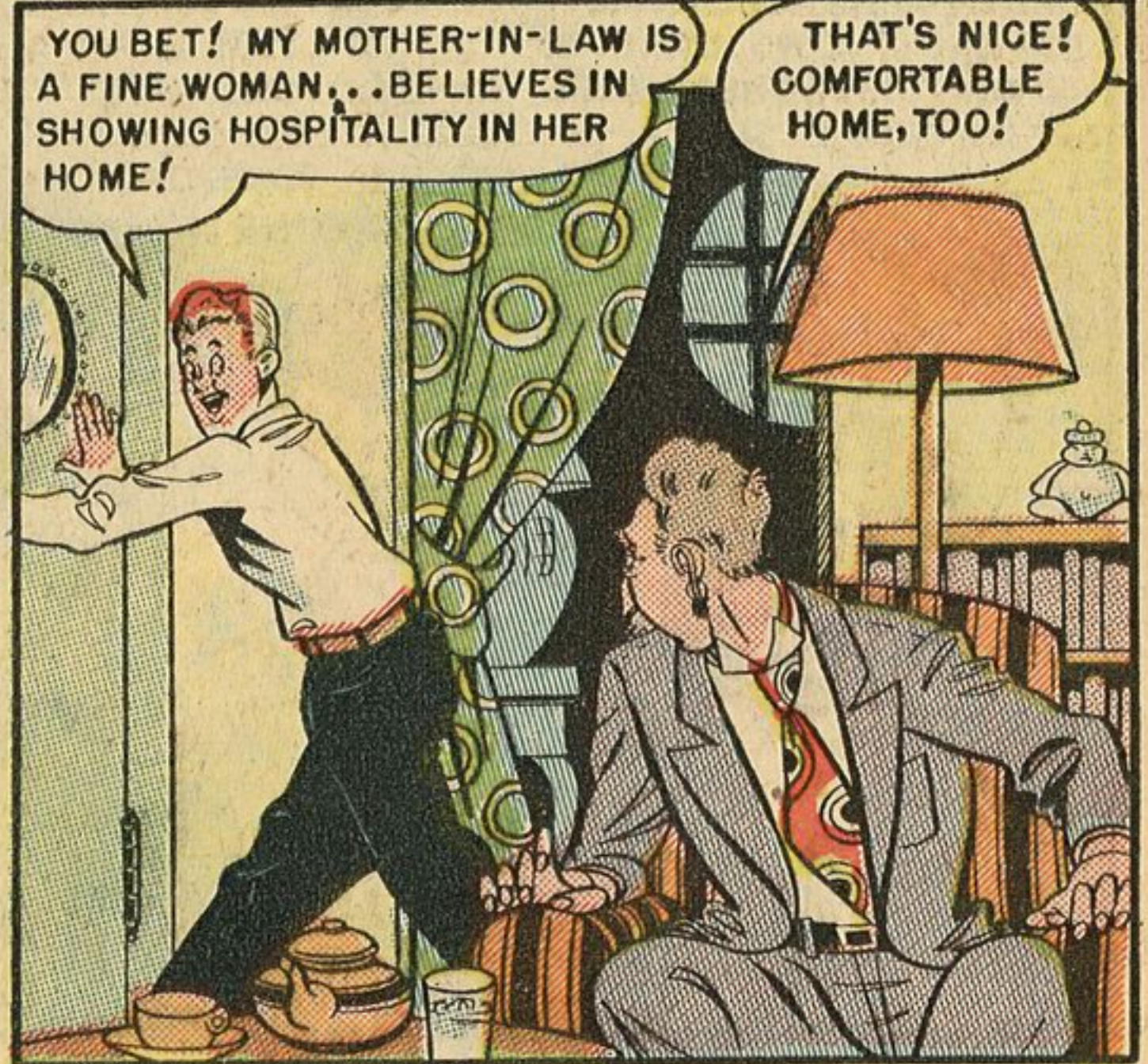
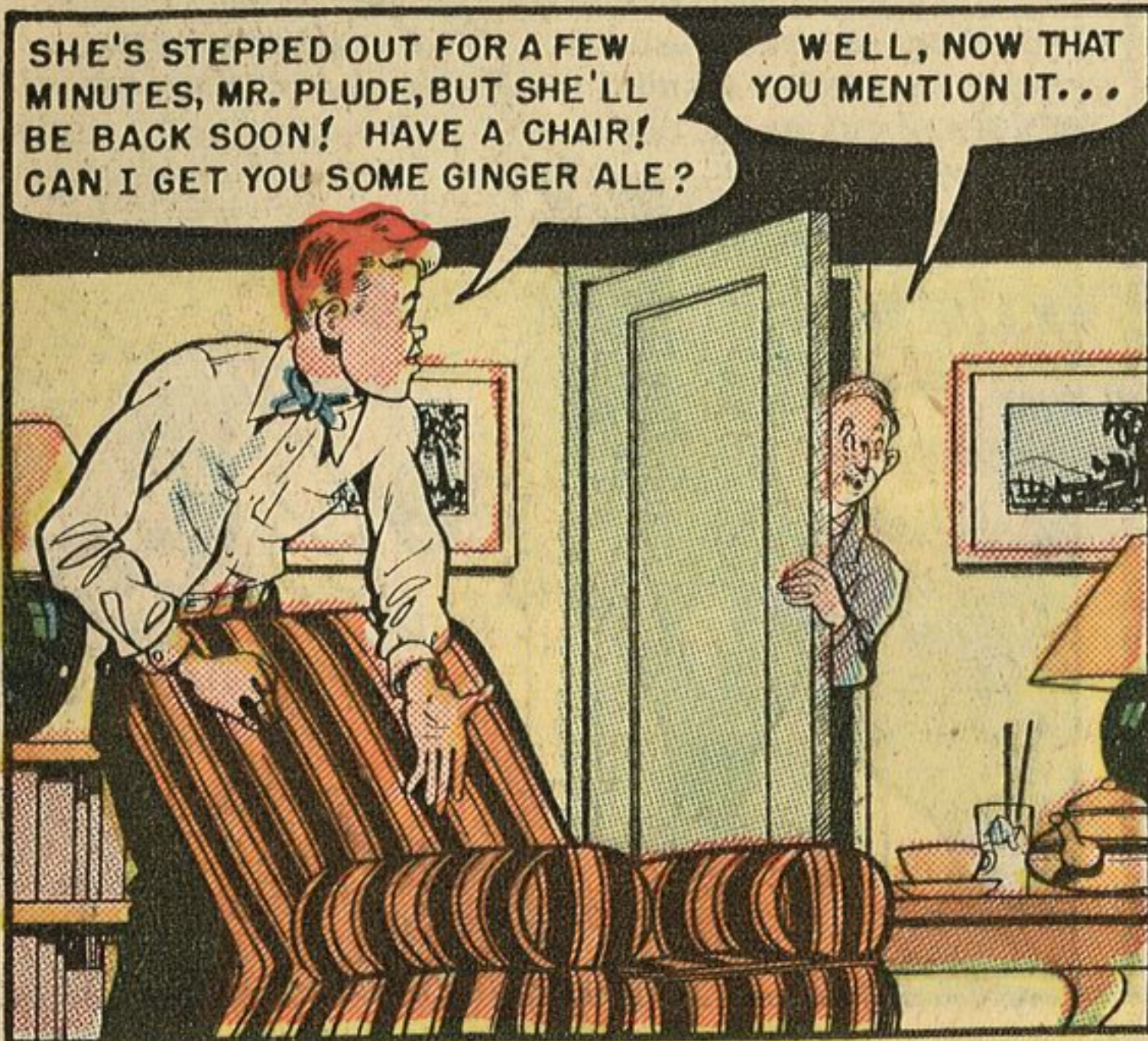


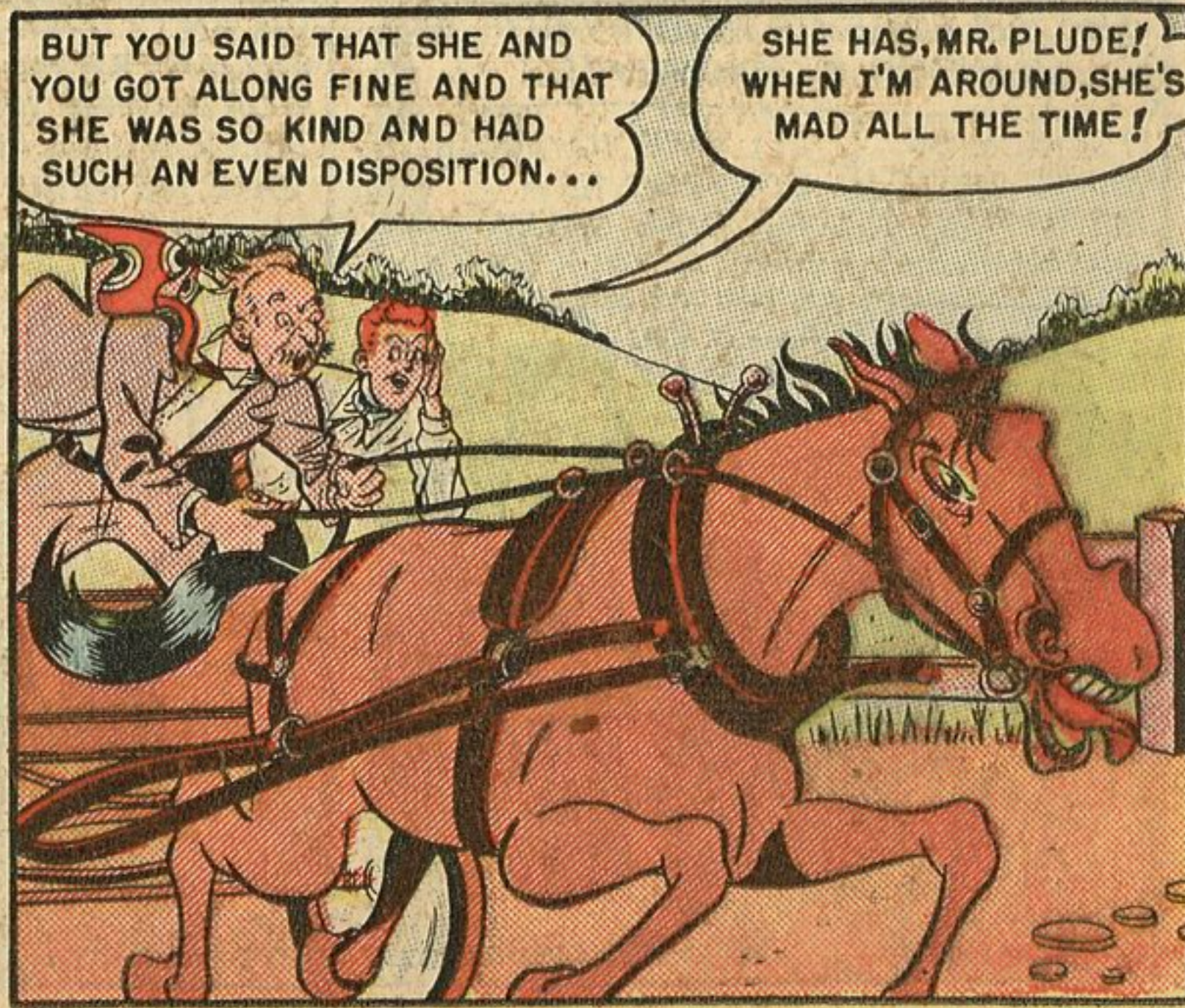
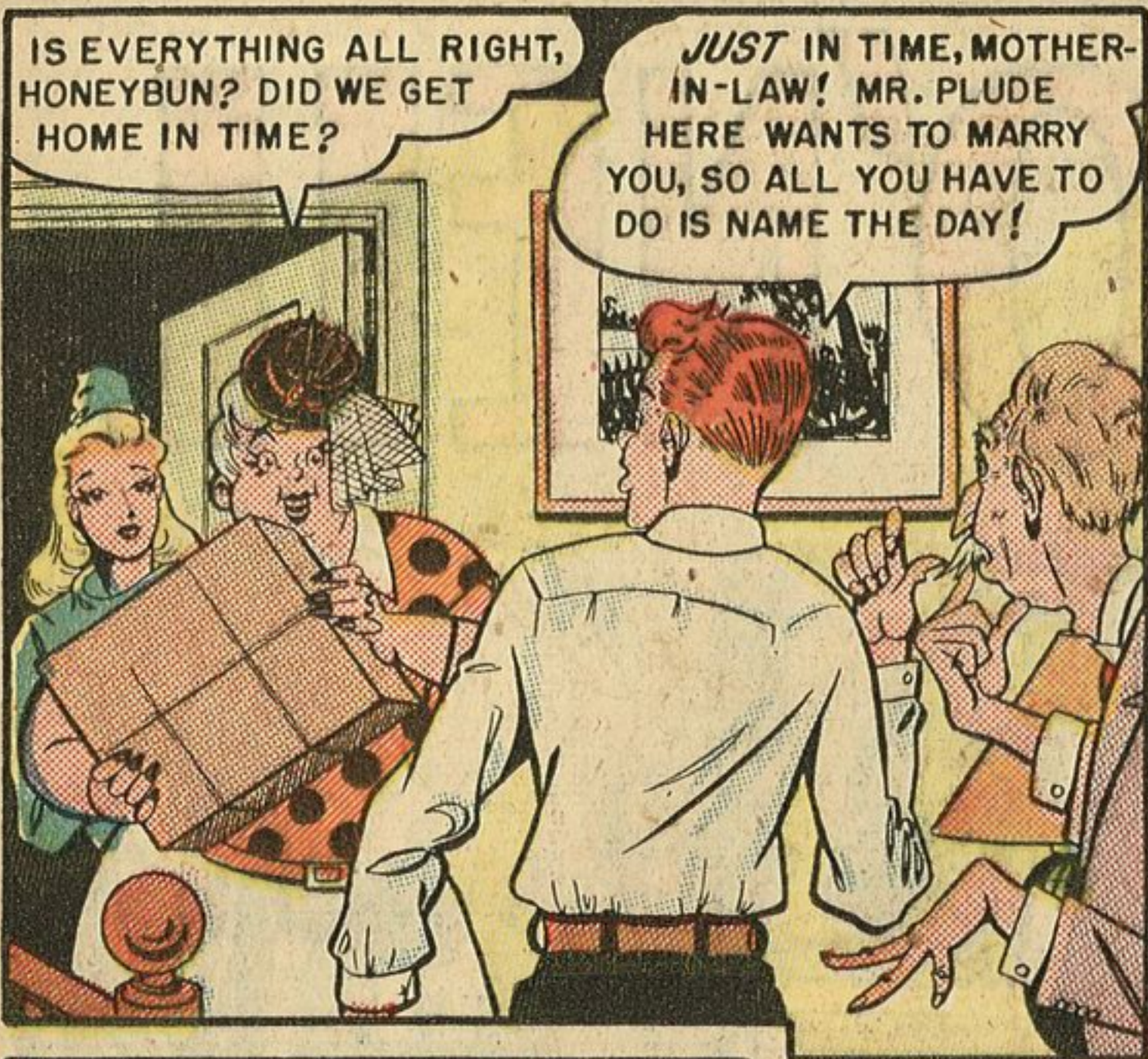
AND WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?

NOT A THING! IN FACT, IT'S SWELL! I'LL BE GLAD TO HELP ANY WAY I CAN! TEE, HEE!









Sally O'NEIL



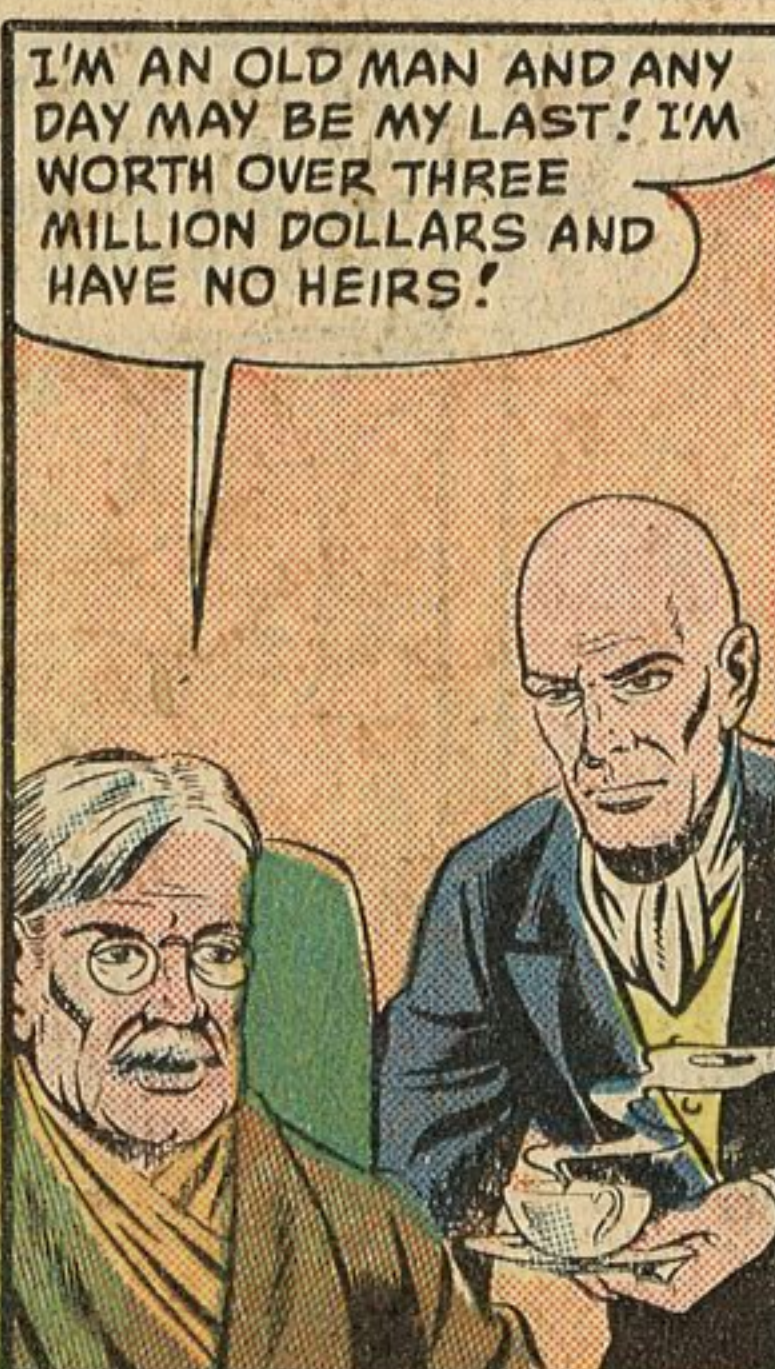
SALLY O'NEIL, POLICEWOMAN, IS HANDED A FORTUNE ON A SILVER PLATTER AND SOLVES A THREE MILLION DOLLAR MURDER!



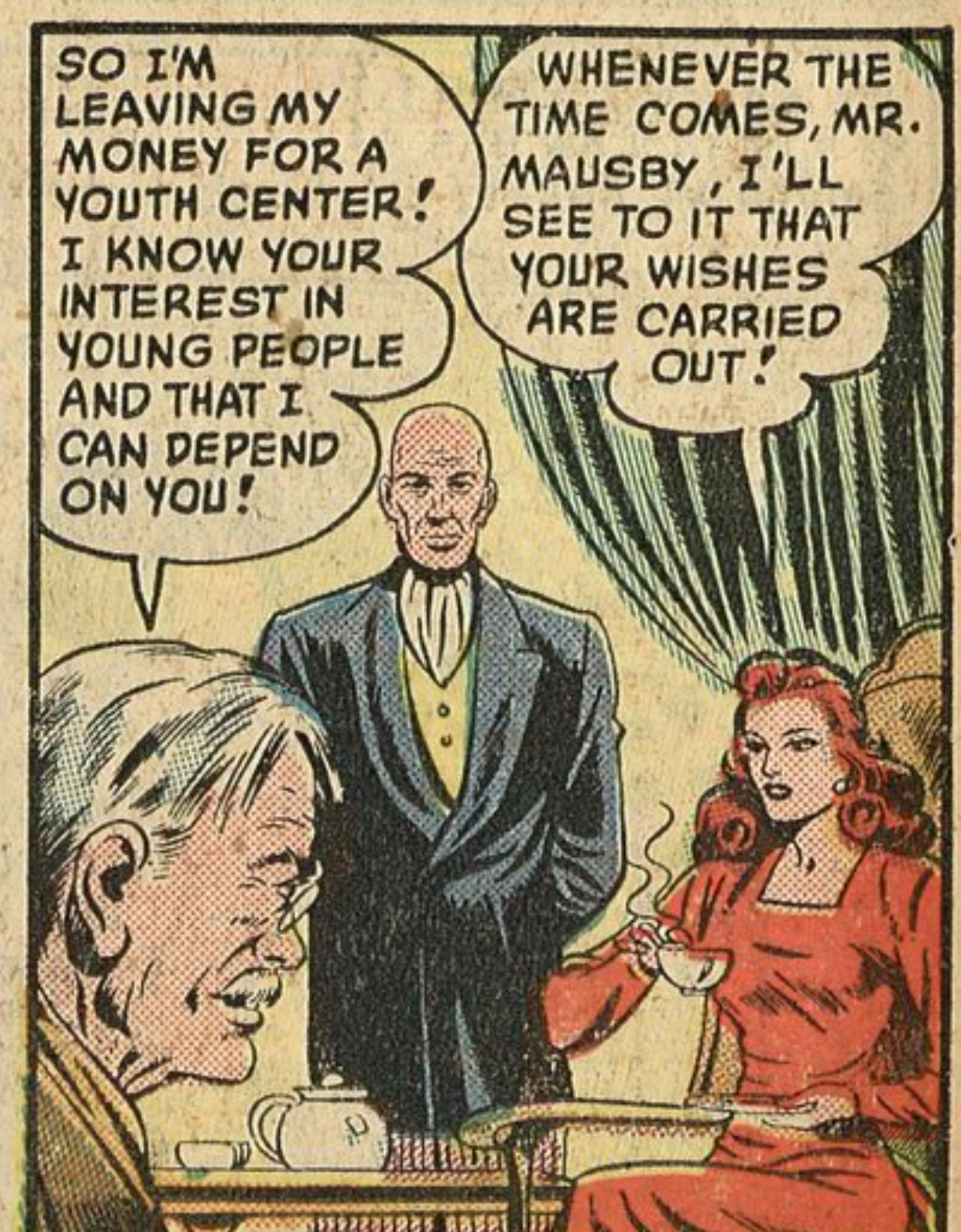
IN THE HOME OF WEALTHY OLD JAMISON P. MAUSBY!!

IT'S NICE OF YOU TO INVITE ME TO TEA, MR. MAUSBY!

I'LL HAVE TO CONFESS TO A PURPOSE, SALLY! I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT MY WILL ... I'VE NAMED YOU ONE OF MY EXECUTORS!

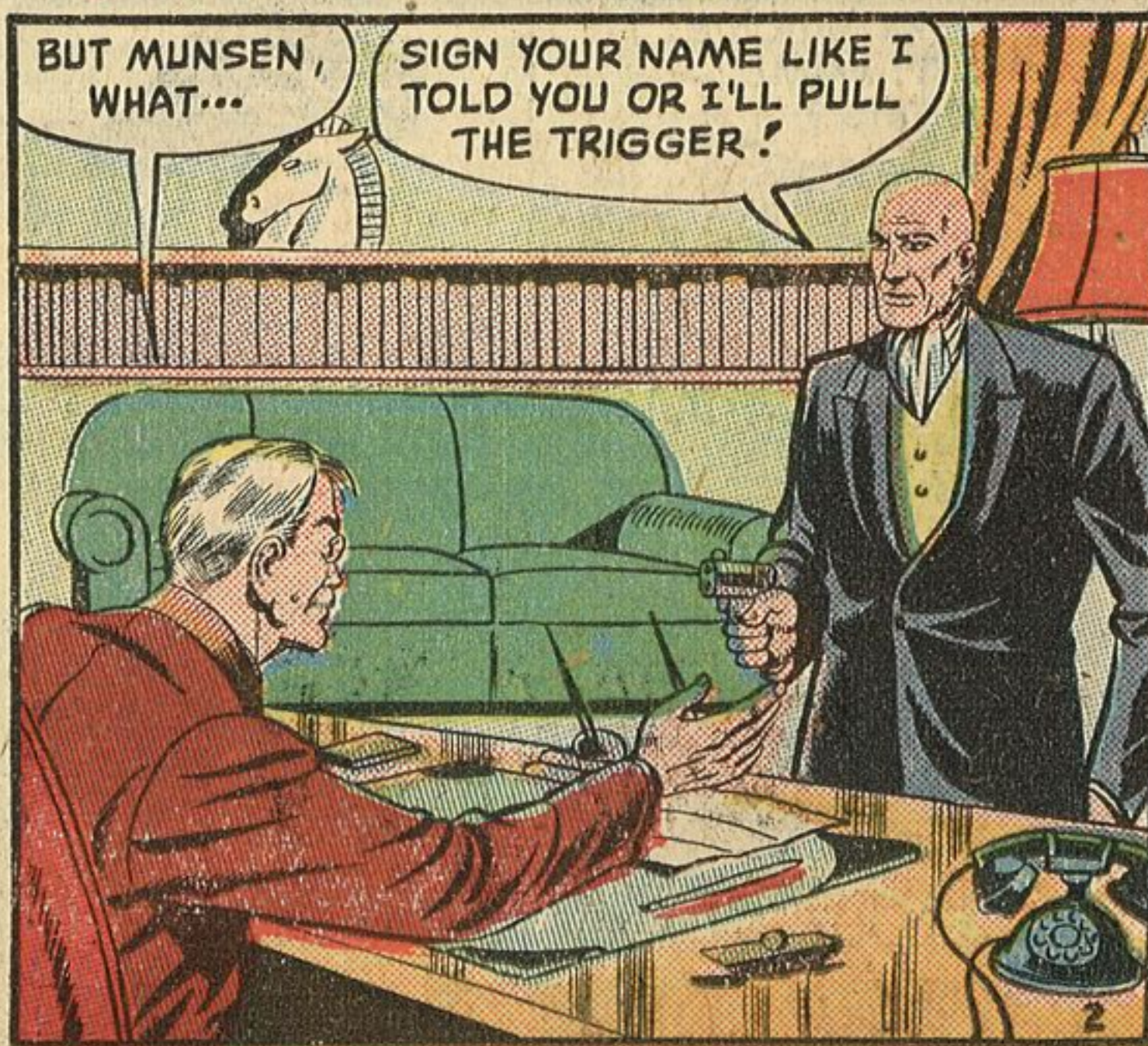
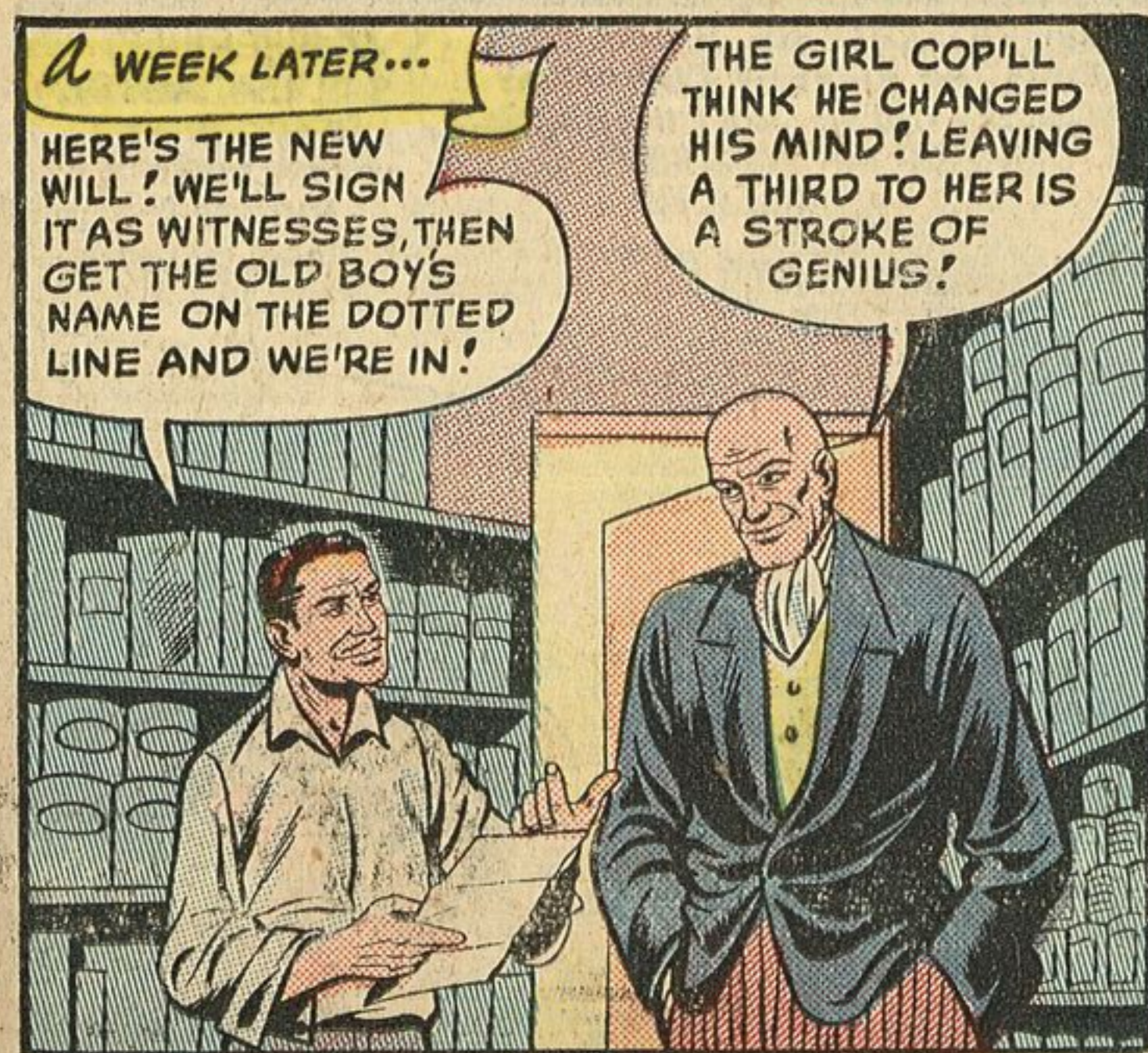
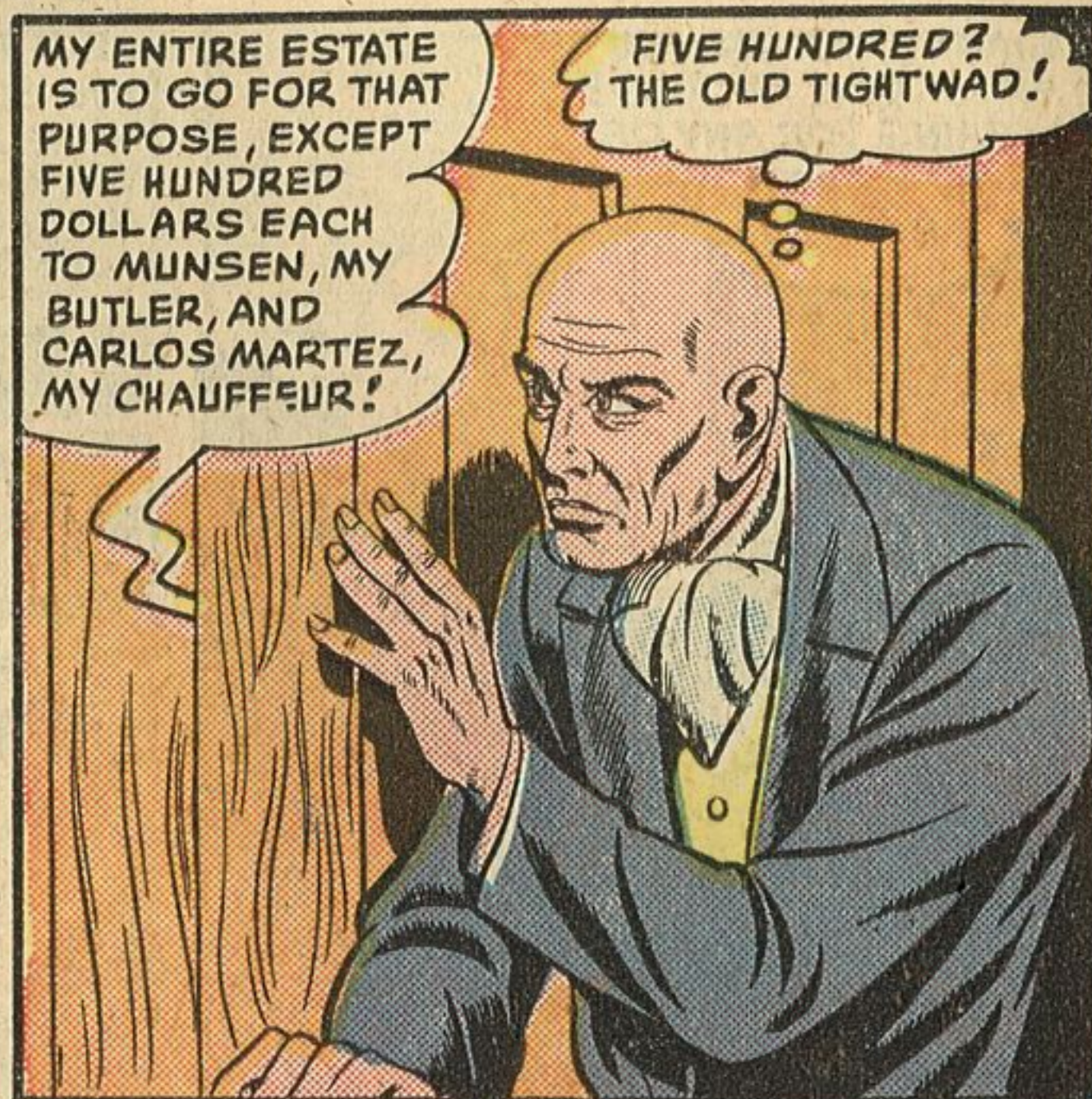
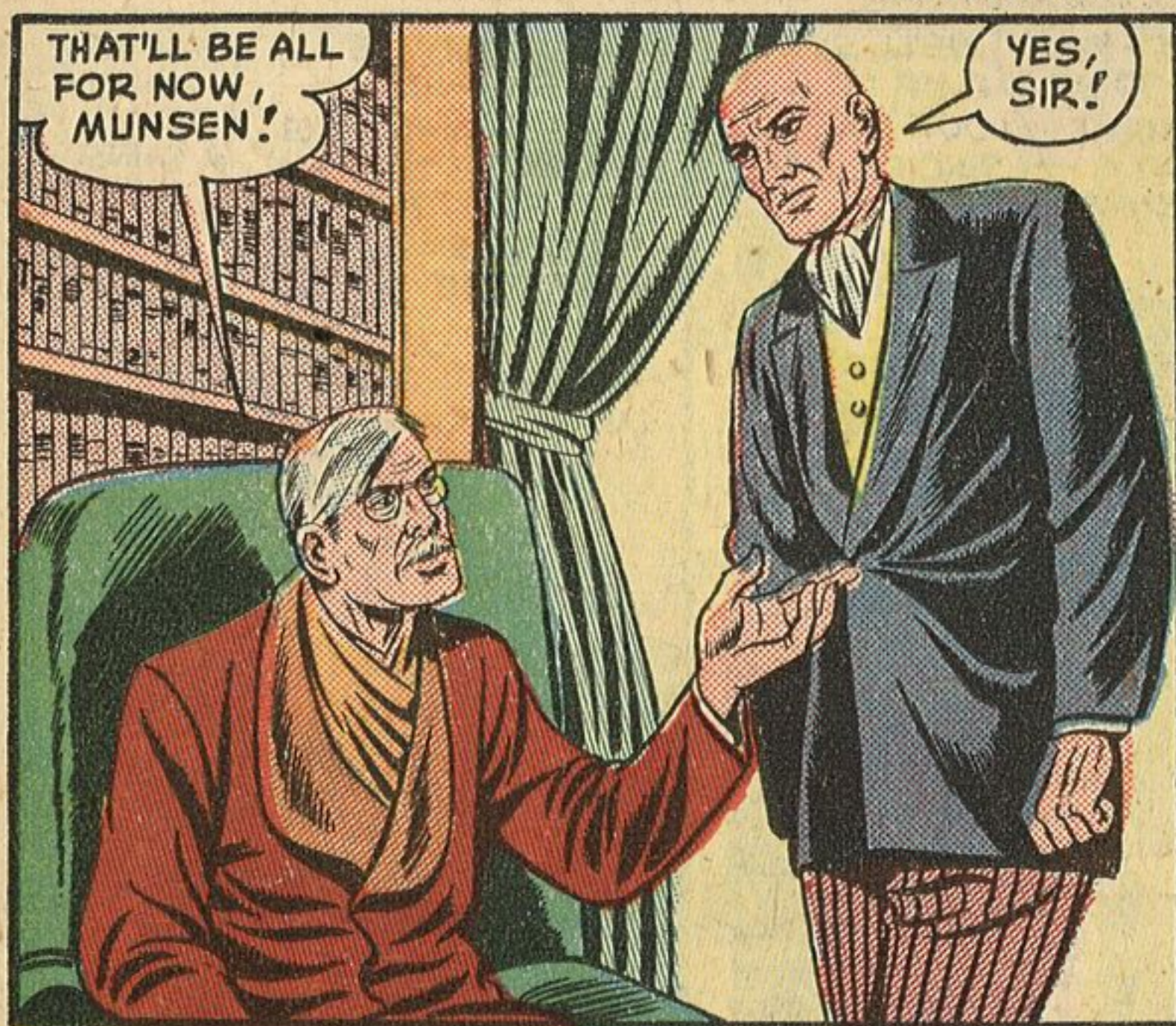


I'M AN OLD MAN AND ANY DAY MAY BE MY LAST! I'M WORTH OVER THREE MILLION DOLLARS AND HAVE NO HEIRS!

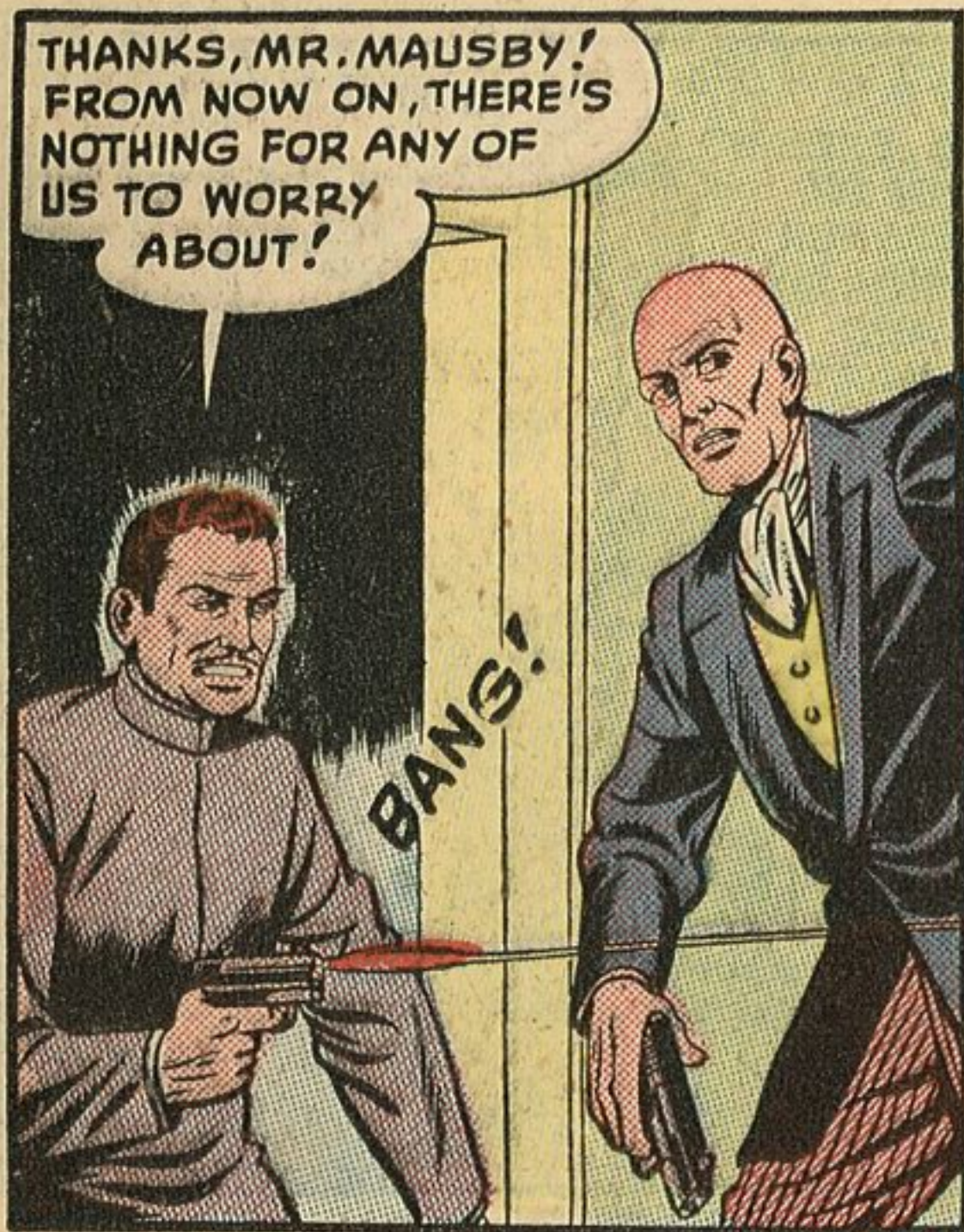


SO I'M LEAVING MY MONEY FOR A YOUTH CENTER! I KNOW YOUR INTEREST IN YOUNG PEOPLE AND THAT I CAN DEPEND ON YOU!

WHENEVER THE TIME COMES, MR. MAUSBY, I'LL SEE TO IT THAT YOUR WISHES ARE CARRIED OUT!

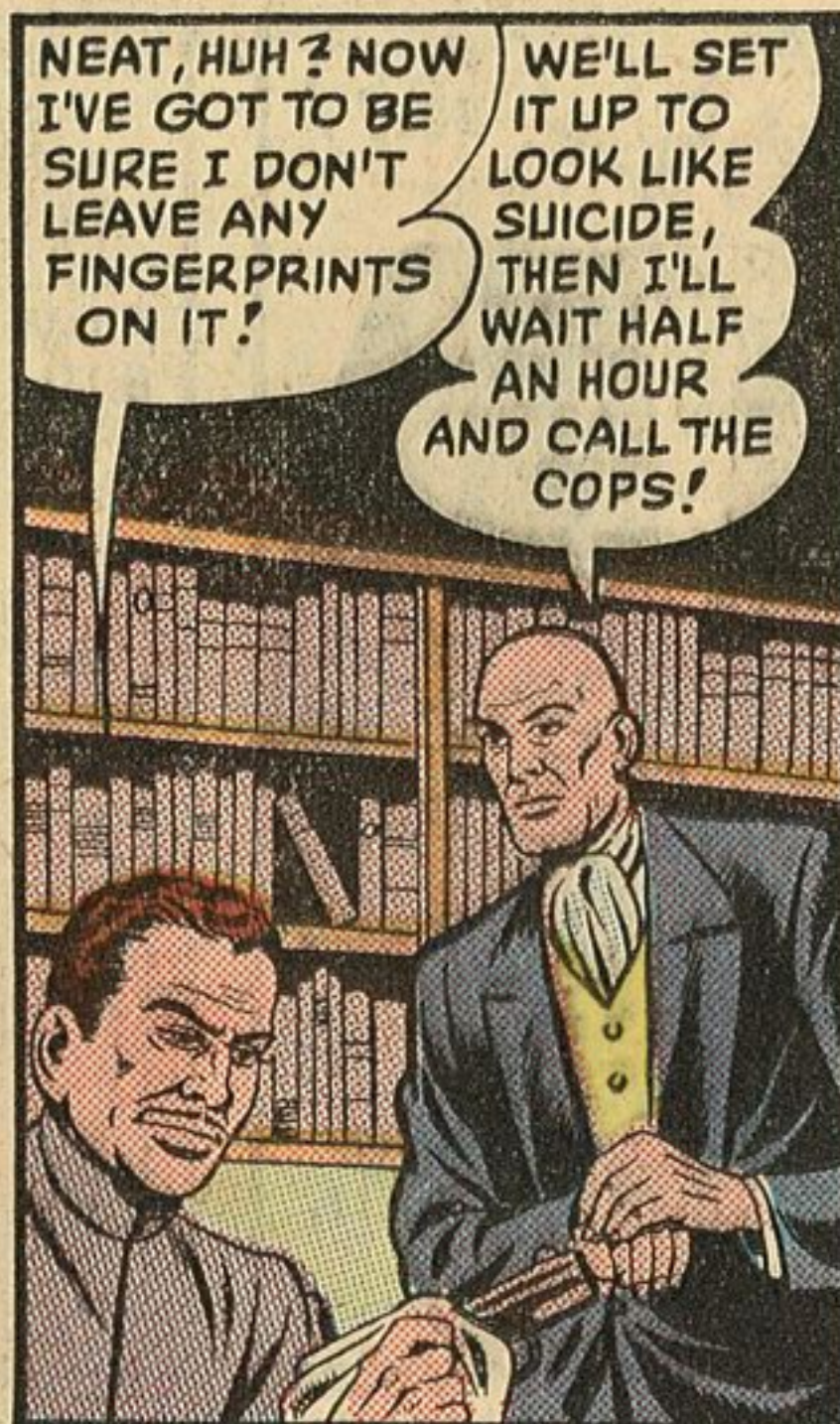


NATIONAL COMICS



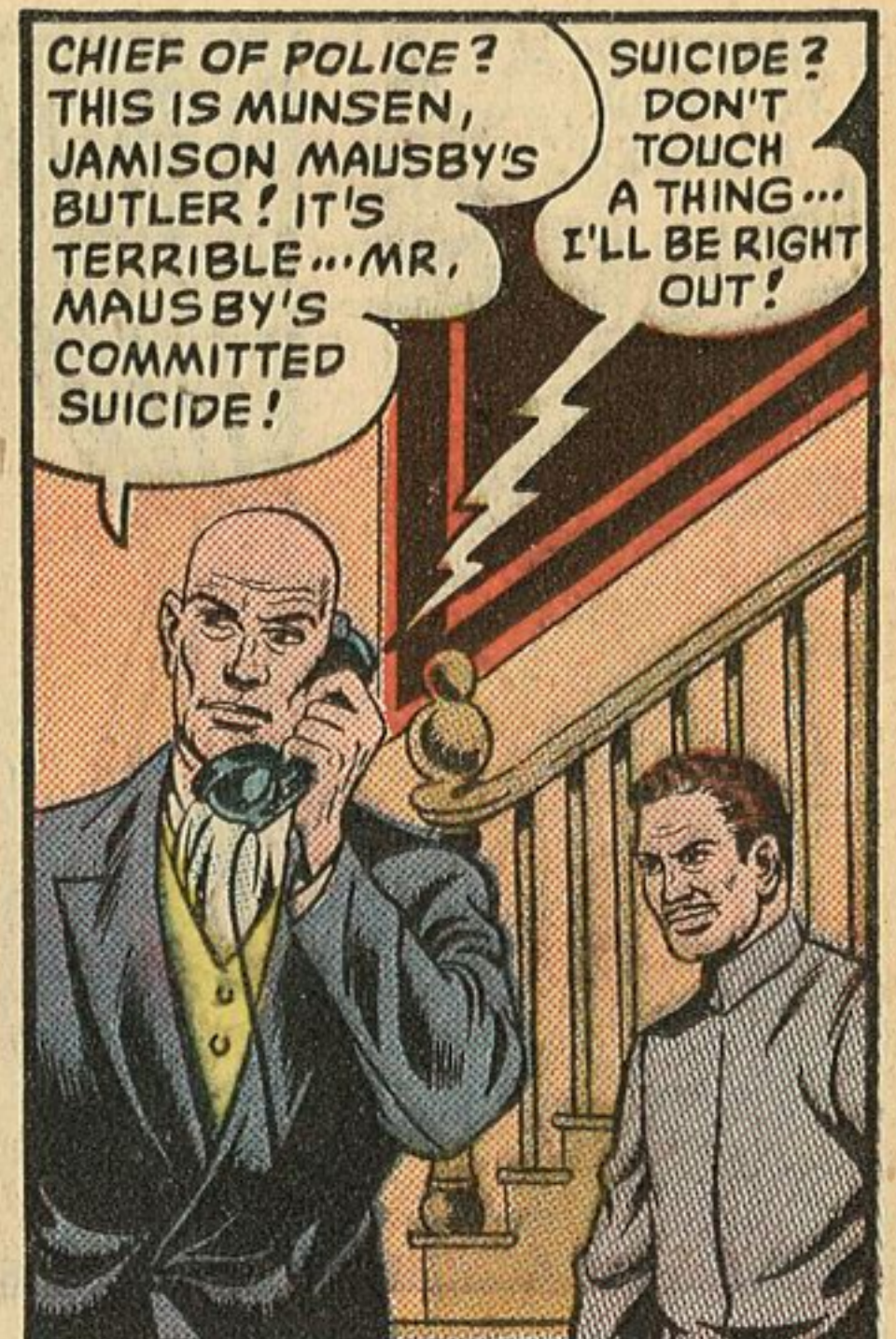
THANKS, MR. MAUSBY!
FROM NOW ON, THERE'S
NOTHING FOR ANY OF
US TO WORRY
ABOUT!

BANG!



NEAT, HUH? NOW
I'VE GOT TO BE
SURE I DON'T
LEAVE ANY
FINGERPRINTS
ON IT!

WE'LL SET
IT UP TO
LOOK LIKE
SUICIDE,
THEN I'LL
WAIT HALF
AN HOUR
AND CALL THE
COPS!



CHIEF OF POLICE?
THIS IS MUNSEN,
JAMISON MAUSBY'S
BUTLER! IT'S
TERRIBLE...MR.
MAUSBY'S
COMMITTED
SUICIDE!

SUICIDE?
DON'T
TOUCH
A THING...
I'LL BE RIGHT
OUT!



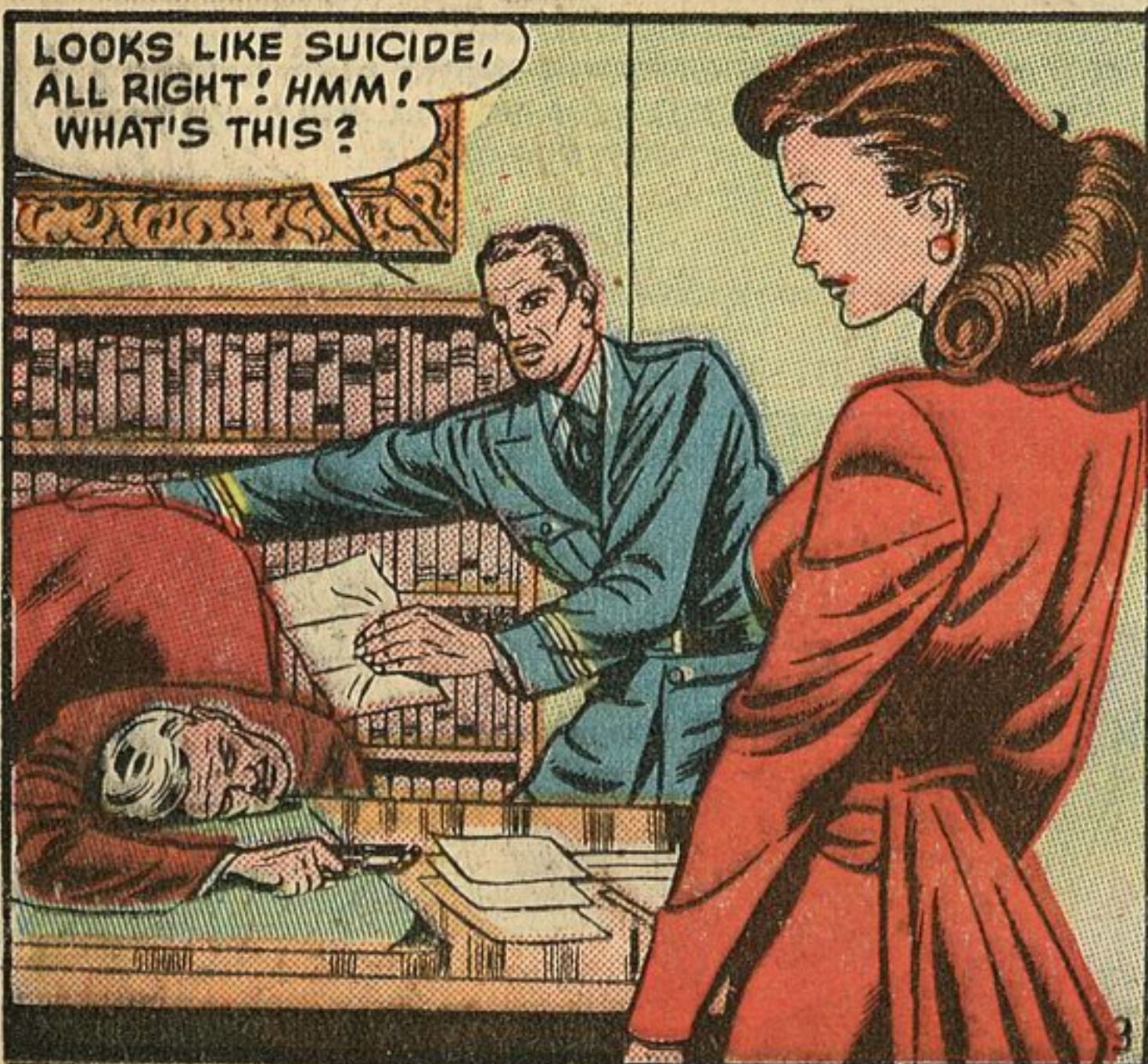
IT'S YOUR OLD FRIEND
MAUSBY, SALLY!
WANT TO COME
ALONG?

SO THAT'S WHY HE WANTED
TO TALK TO ME ABOUT HIS
WILL! YES, CHIEF, I'LL GO
WITH YOU!



HELLO, MUNSEN! I'M
AWFULLY SORRY ABOUT
WHAT HAPPENED!

IT'S A GREAT SHOCK,
MISS O'NEIL... I WAS
DEVOTED TO HIM! I
FOUND HIM, MYSELF!

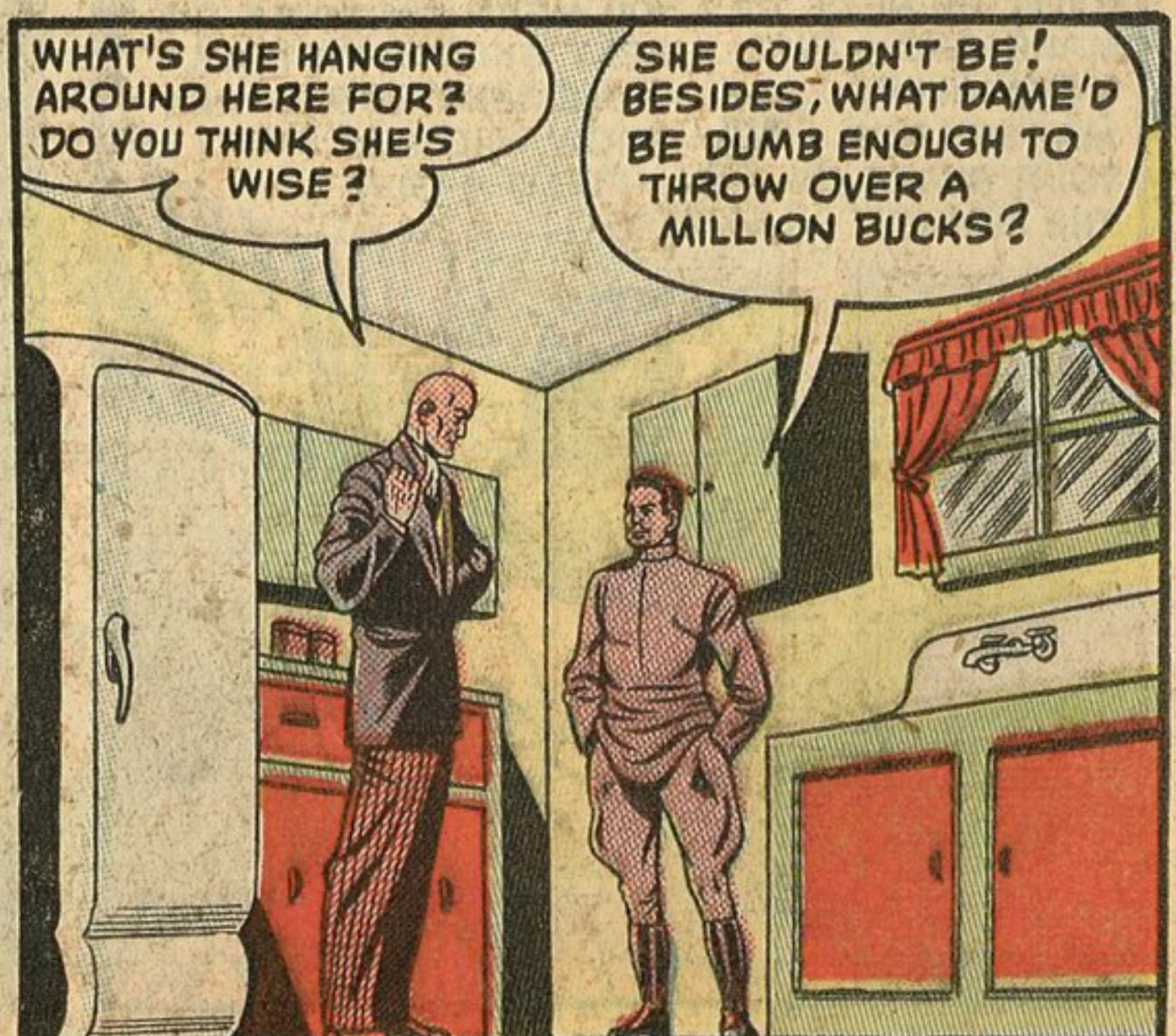
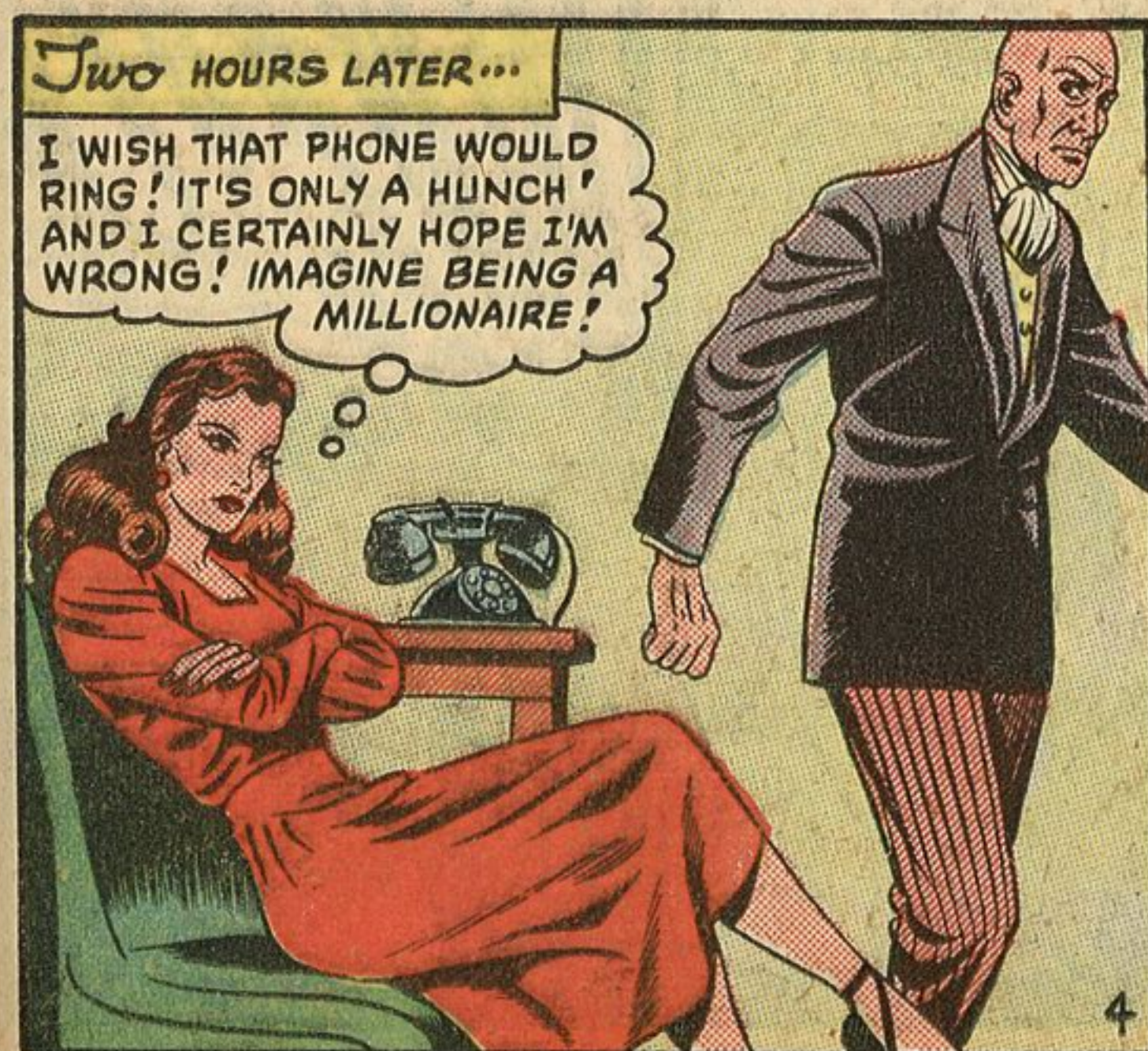
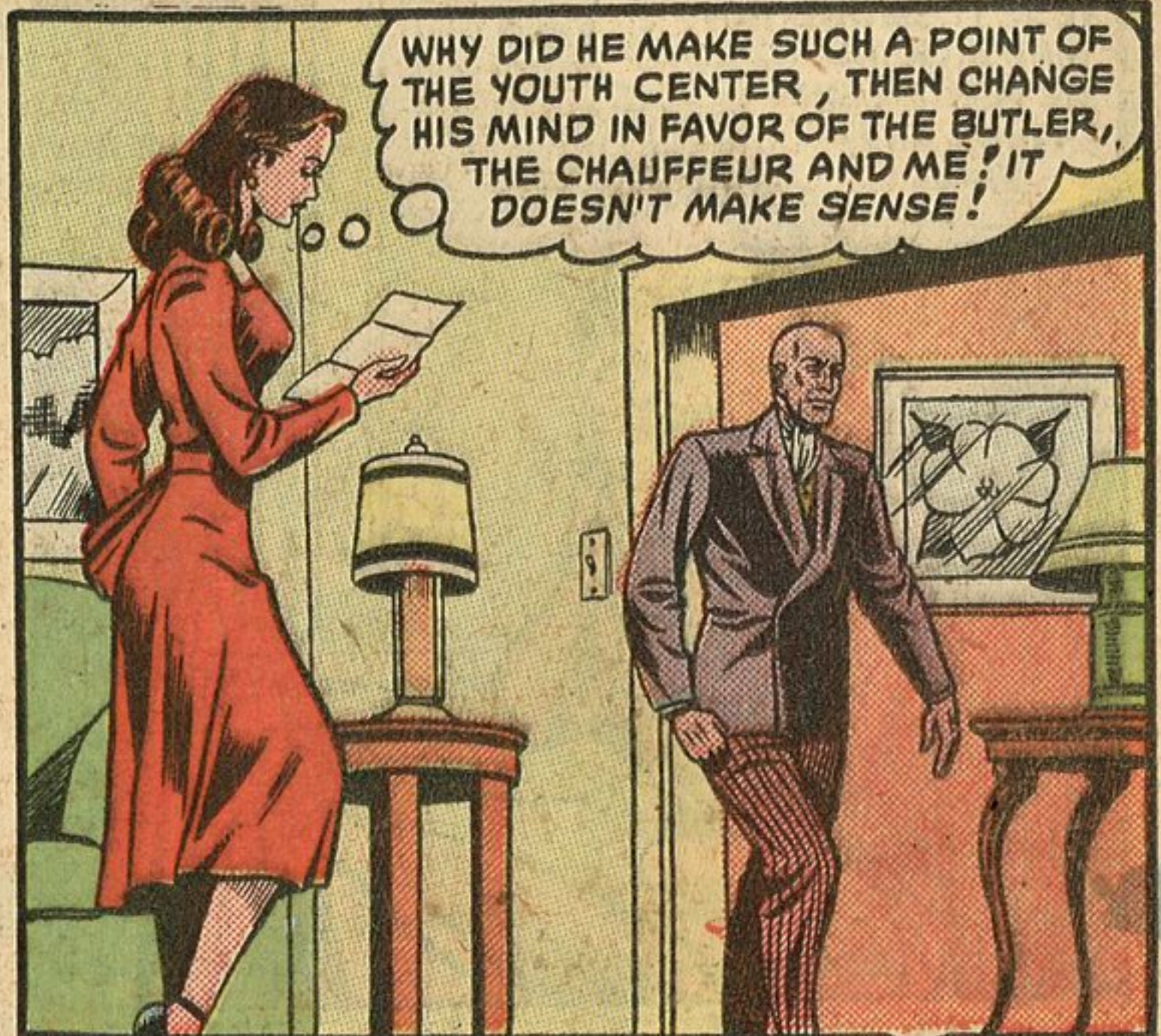


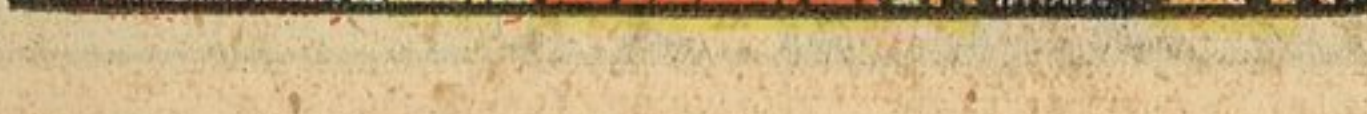
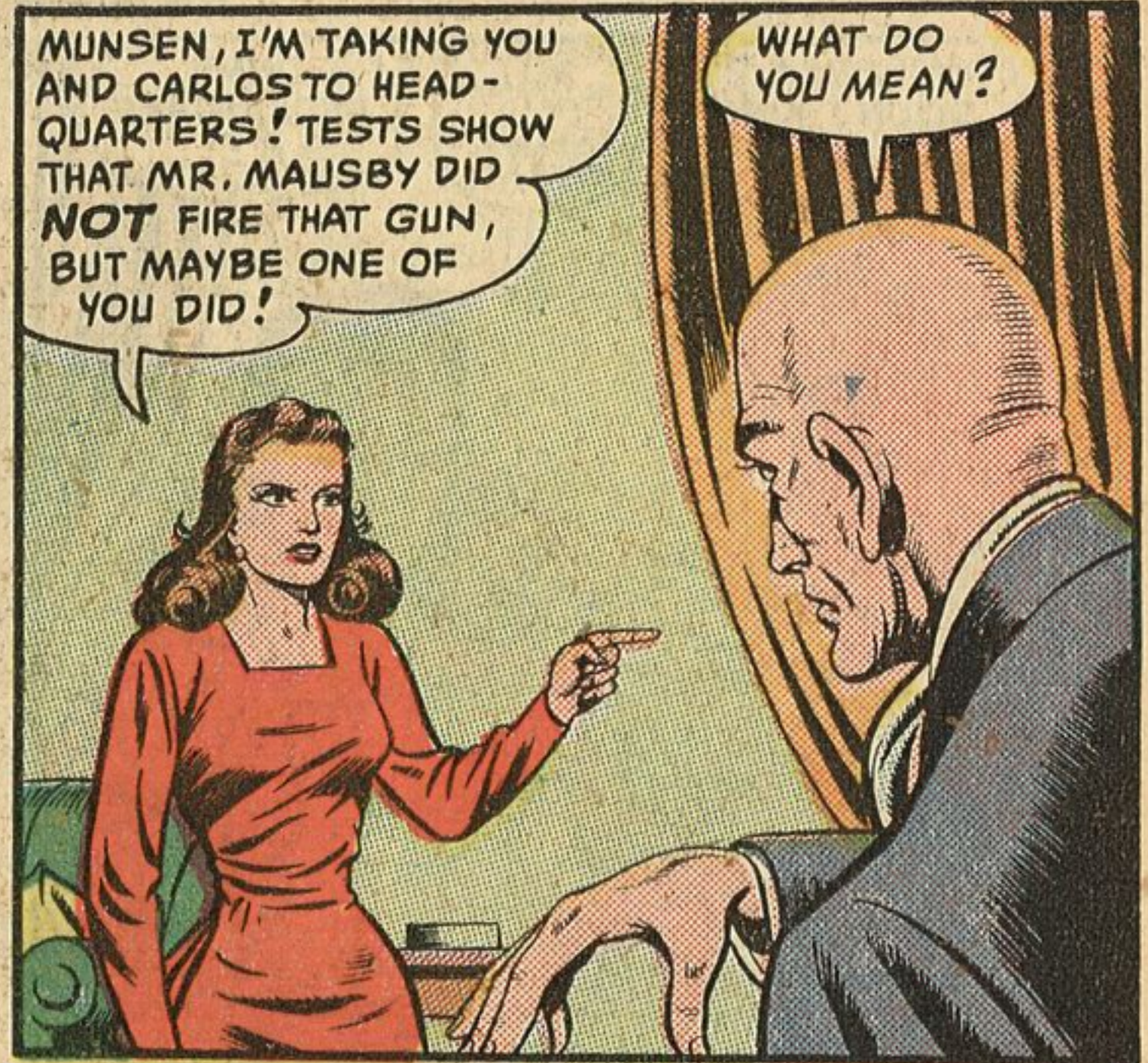
LOOKS LIKE SUICIDE,
ALL RIGHT! HMM!
WHAT'S THIS?

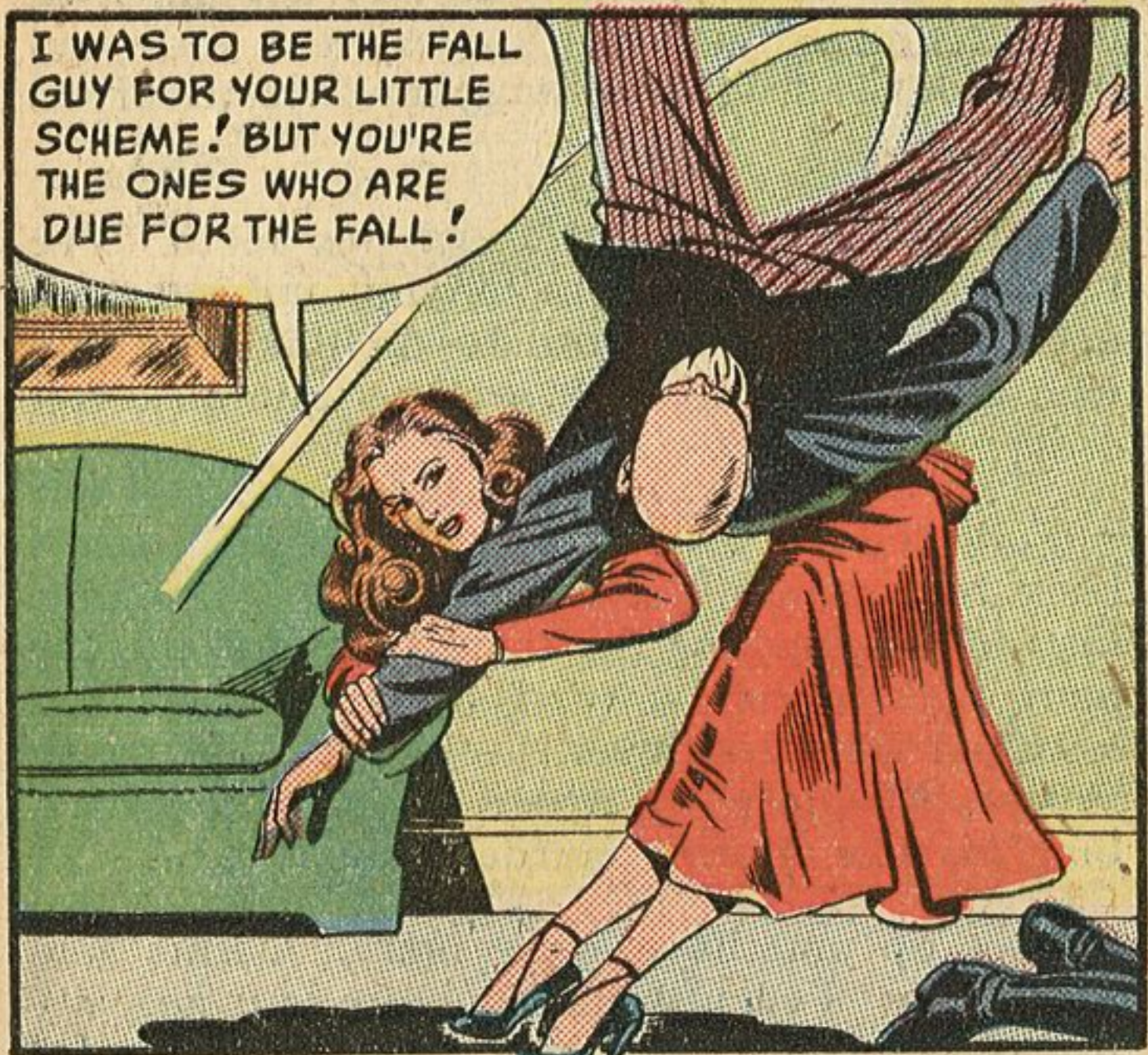
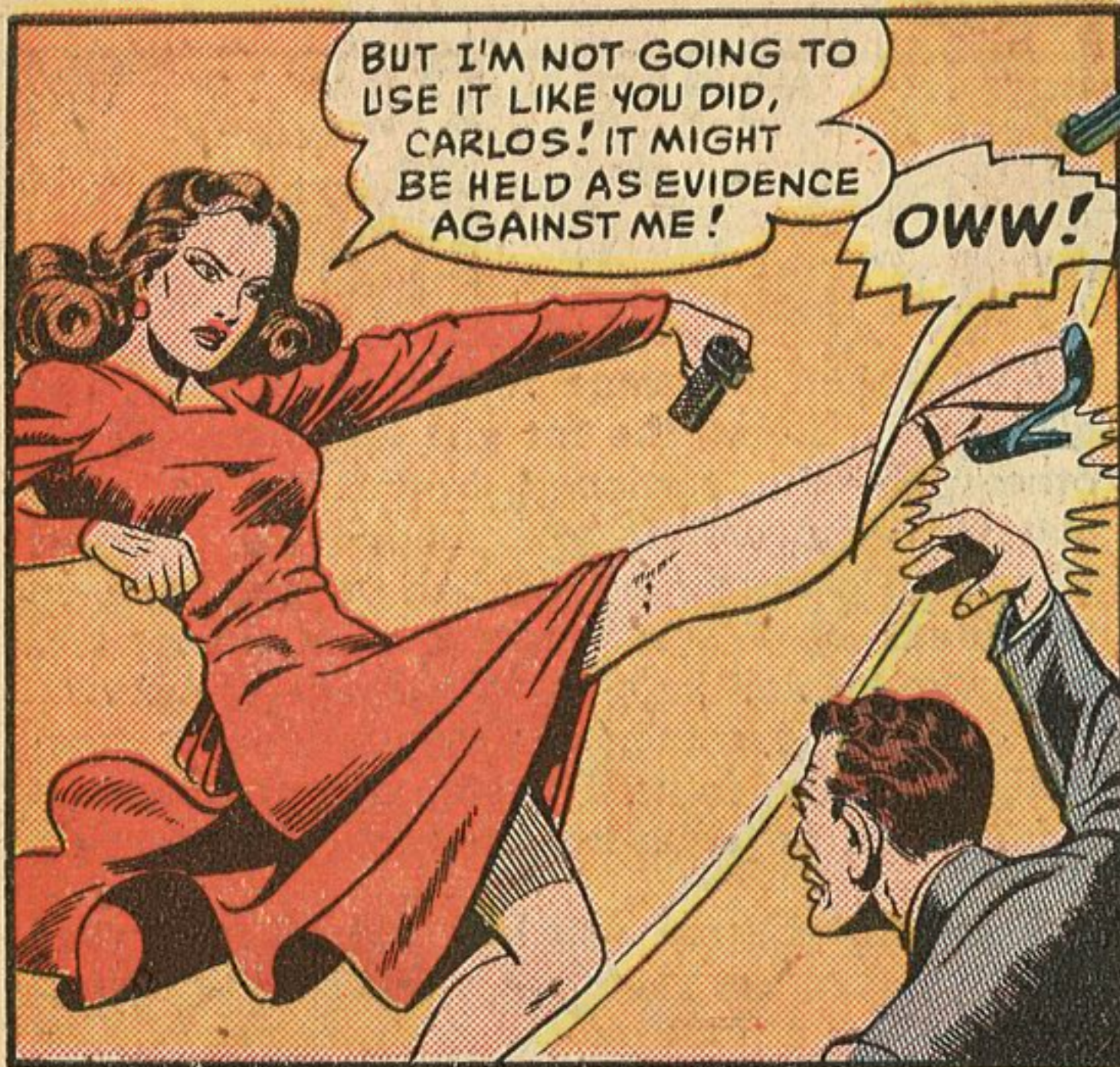


CONGRATULATIONS, SALLY, ON
BEING THE RICHEST COP IN THE
WORLD! YOU'VE JUST INHERITED
A THIRD OF MR. MAUSBY'S
MILLIONS!

ME? CHIEF,
SAY THAT AGAIN...
I DON'T THINK I
HEARD YOU
RIGHT!







7/6 BIG WHEEL

MR. Algernon "Fingers" McGinty leaned against a ticket booth a few yards from the merry-go-round on Colonel Lane's Mammoth Circus lot and whistled softly through his teeth. His hand rippled silver dollars inside one elegantly-tailored pants pocket and the sound of their clinking was sweeter music than the organ of the big wheel. But even more satisfying to Fingers McGinty was the feel of the bulging wad of bills in the money belt inside his shirt, lying snug and warming against his ample paunch.

Very suddenly a hand came out of nowhere, caught Fingers by the elegant jacket front and swung him around. The hard, angry face of Carnie Calahan poked itself close to Fingers' nose. "All right, trimmer," Carnie snarled. "I want to know what the gimmick is. You've been hanging around here for two days, looking like that cat that ate the canary. I know you're up to some grift and I want to know what."

"Why, Mister Calahan," Fingers said, deftly removing his jacket from the clutching hand and smoothing the profaning wrinkles. "How can you so mistrust a fellow human who merely enjoys the sweet music of yon merry-go-round organ. That's the reason I stay here, Carnie. It soothes my soul. It satisfies some strange inner craving that reaches far back into my lonely childhood."

"You," Carnie said through his teeth, "are due for a very short old age to go with that childhood if I can just figure what kind of a racket you're running here."

The face of Fingers McGinty turned hard. "Until you do, loudmouth, suppose you keep your big hands off my clothing and your ugly face out of my sight. Scram! In the words of the poet, put up or shut up!"

Carnie walked off, his face set, his fists clenched into hard knots. Major Midge slid up beside him. "It's got me, Carnie. I've been watching for an hour and all he does is stand there. Once in a while a guy walks up and hands him some money. Then, after a while, he runs into the crowd and hands a whole wad of bills to some local yokel. I don't get it at all."

"Neither do I," Carnie growled. "We've worked over a dozen of those yokels as much as we dare and they won't say a word. And until we can prove Fingers is pulling a grift, we can't act without getting in bad with the law. It beats me."

Carnie got the same report from Tiny, the giant, from Lena, the fat girl and from all his other pals who, stationed around the lot, were watching Fingers. It was maddening. Colonel Lane had clamped a rigid ban on gambling on the circus lot. Wheels and games of chance had been run off and kept off. Yet Fingers, a notorious circus lot gambler, was unquestionably operating right under their noses, and operating at a fat profit, to judge from his smug satisfaction.

Suddenly Carnie whirled and his narrowed eyes watched the merry-go-round slow and stop. He watched a mob of shrieking riders pile off and another mob storm their way on, clutching tickets. Suddenly Carnie's eyes went wide and his breath slid out in a long, low whistle of exultation.

"Come on," he said through his teeth. "I've been blind as a headless bat but my eyes are open now. I almost hate to do this to a guy who can dream up such a clever gimmick, but orders are orders."

Followed by his staring pals, Carnie walked back to confront Fingers McGinty. This time, instead of speaking, he merely caught the big man, whirled him around with one hand and knocked him end over heels with the other. Fingers McGinty lay where he had fallen, rubbing his jaw, glaring murderously.

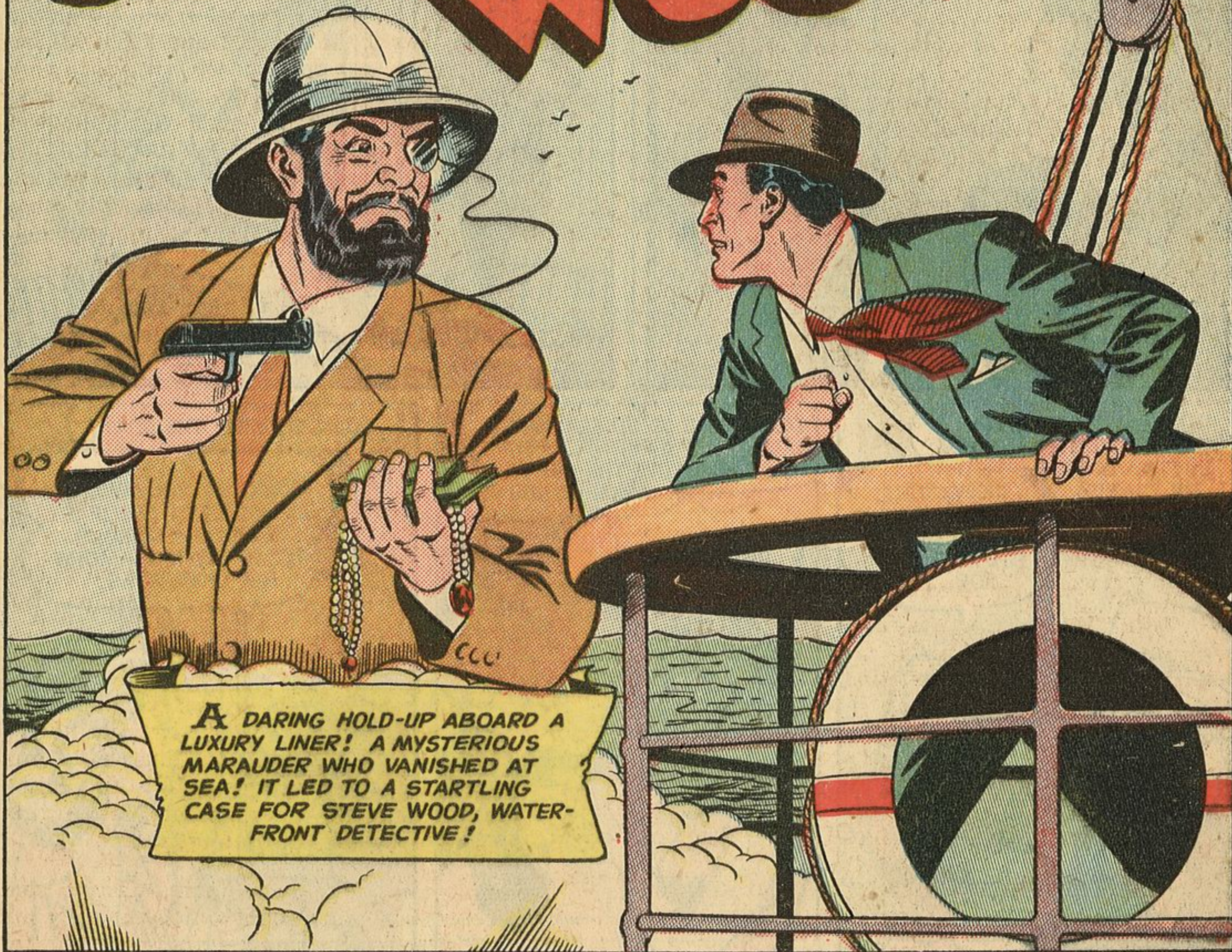
"Get up and have some more," Carnie said pleasantly. "I've just caught onto your gag, my friend. It's smart. So smart I think it calls for an extra punch or two, by way of approval."

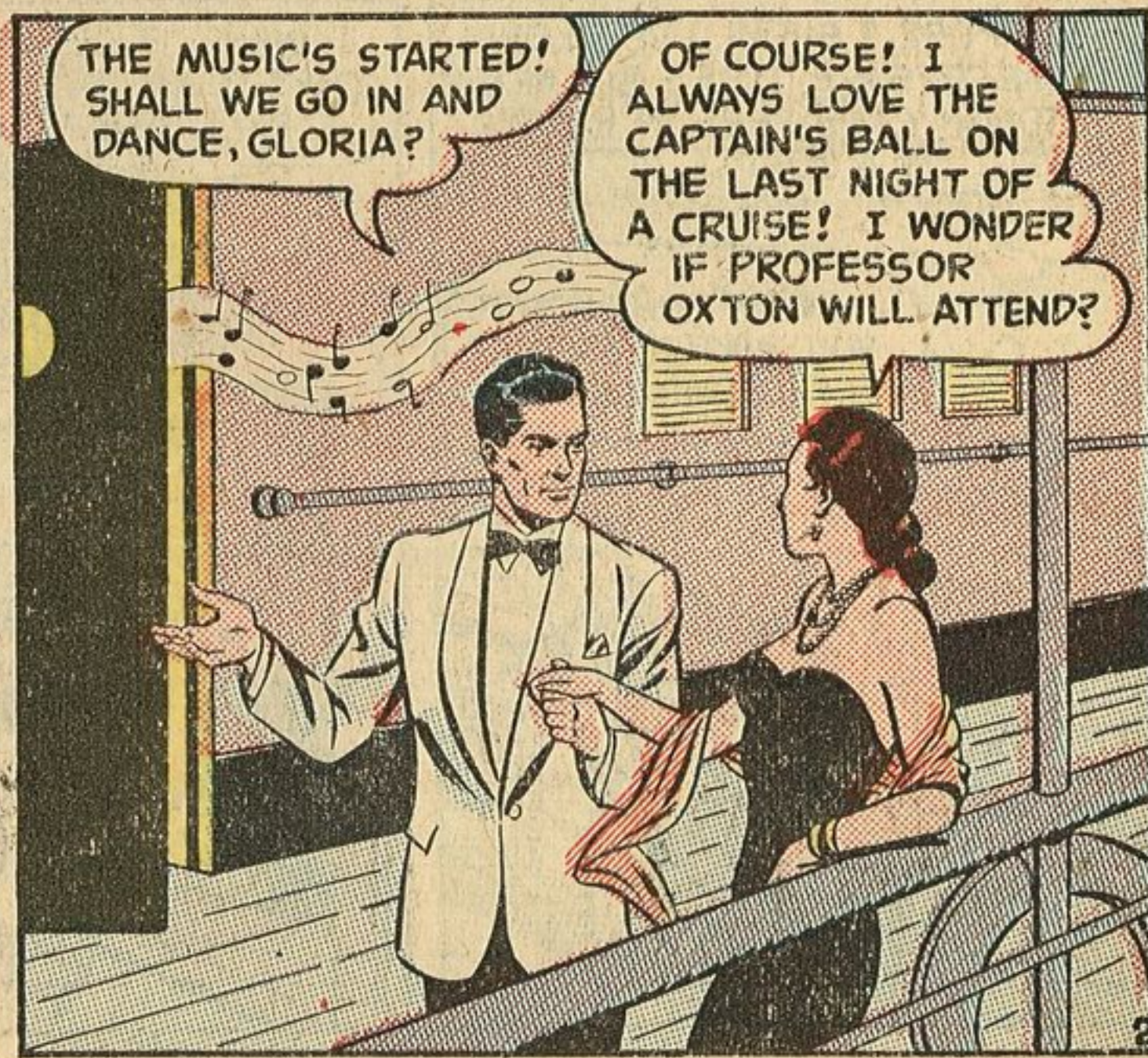
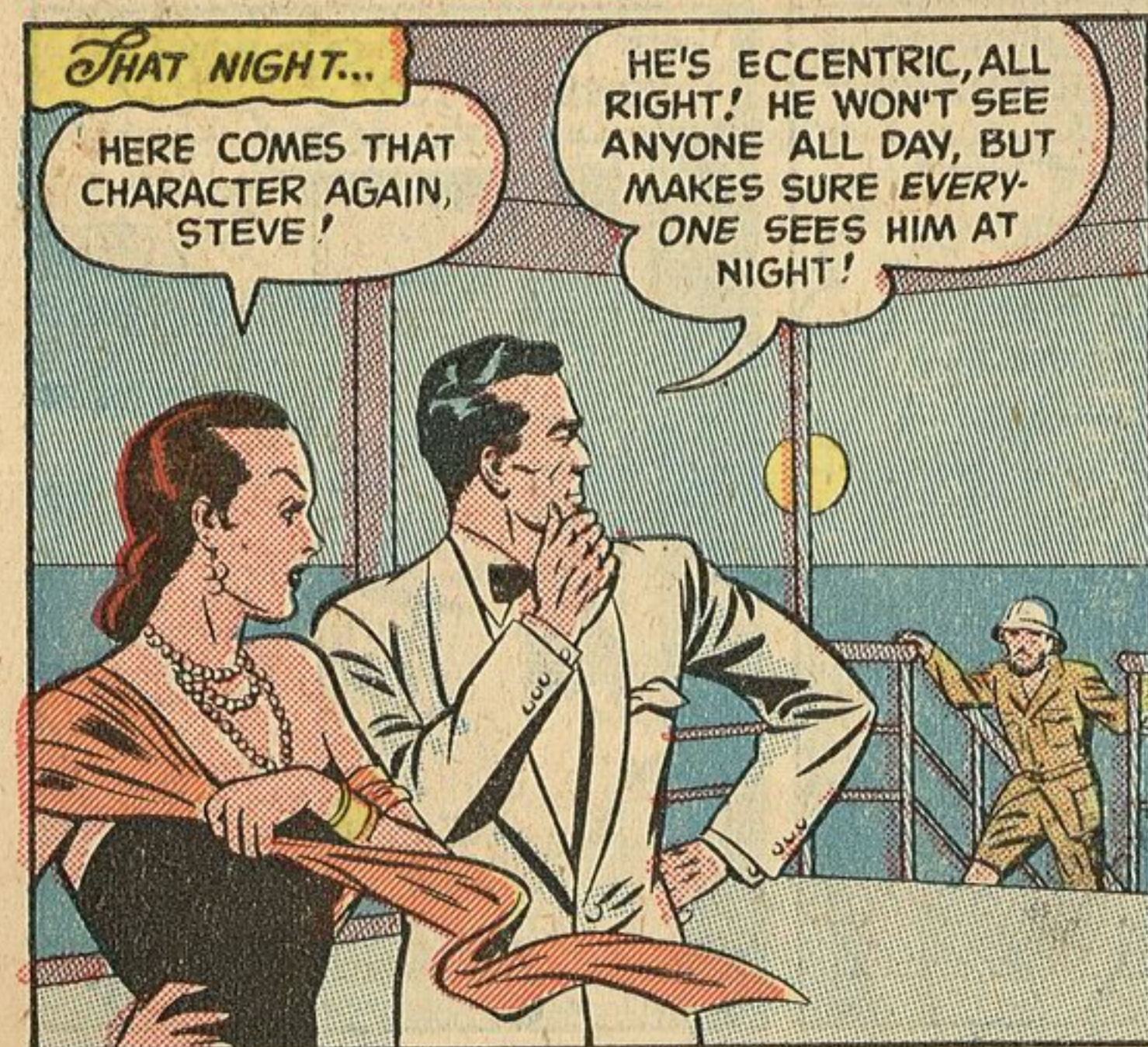
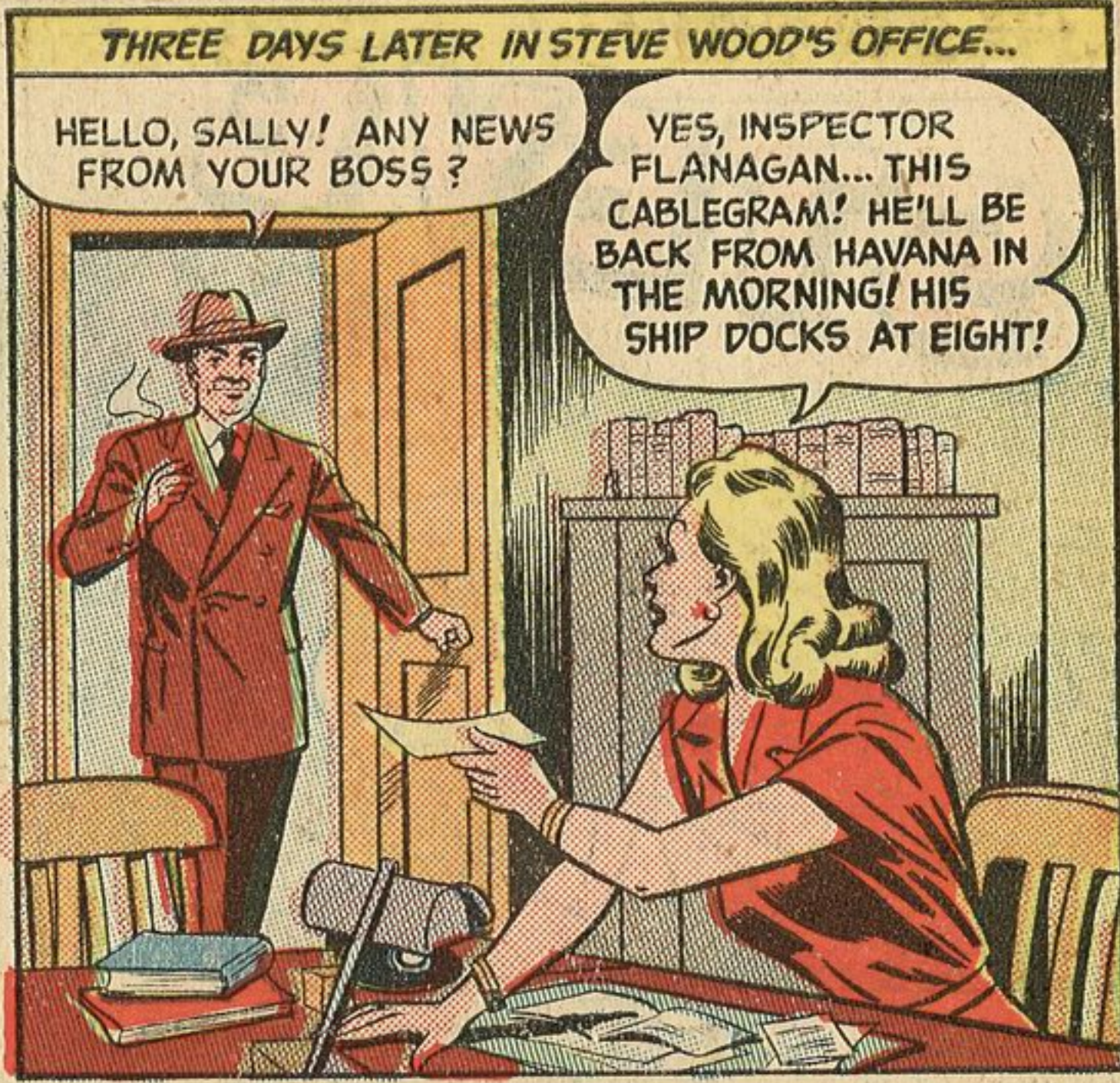
"Don't touch me," Fingers yelled, scrambling backward. "I'm clearing out." He saw Carnie's eyes flick toward the merry-go-round and sighed. "Okay, so you caught wise. But it was good while it lasted, friend. And I'll see you again."

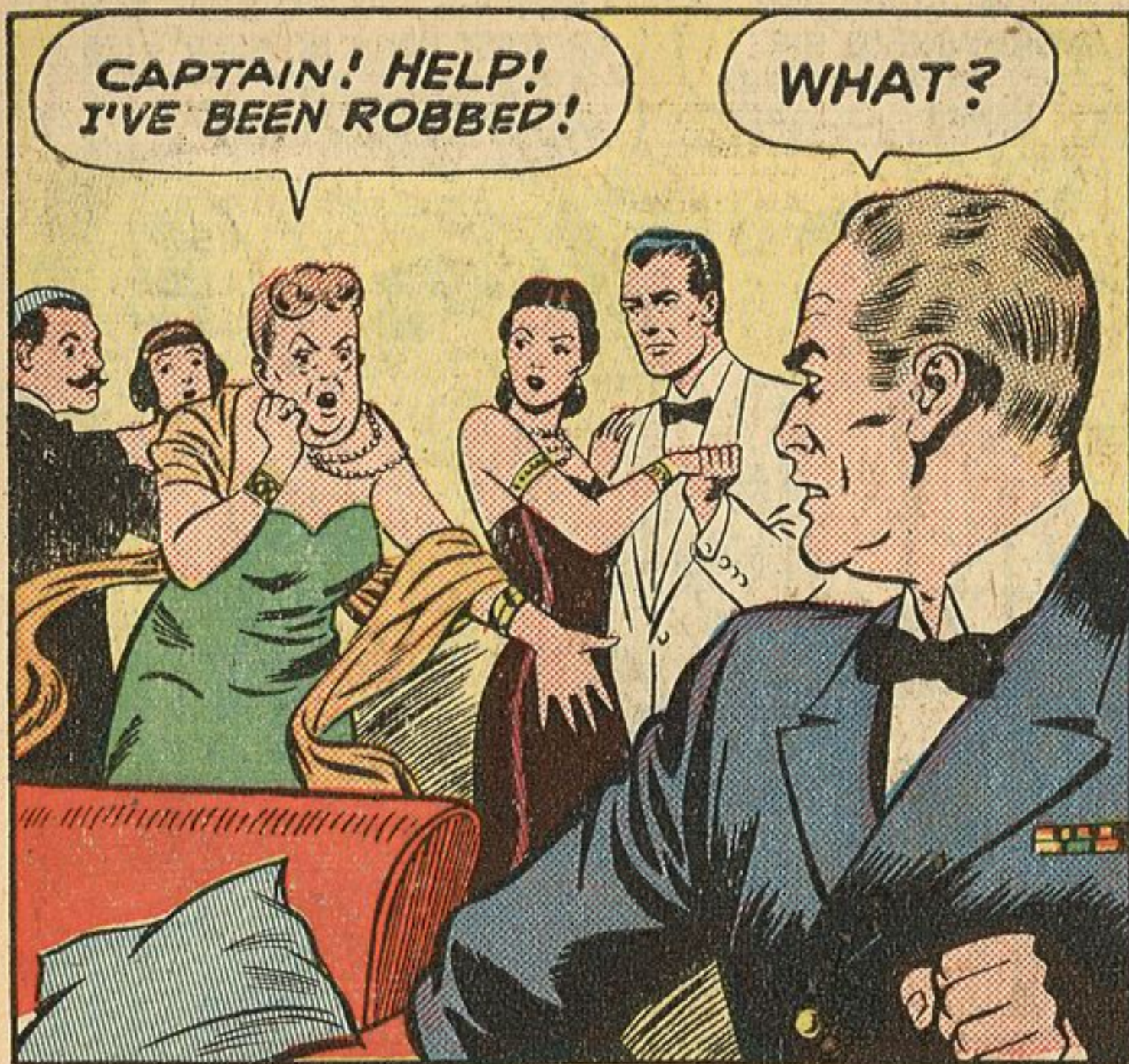
When he had gone, Major Midge used his cane to tug Carnie Calahan to a halt. "Give with the info, my friend. I still don't see what game Fingers was playing."

Carnie laughed. "Roulette. He was using the merry-go-round for a wheel. The suckers would bet with him on where that sorrel horse stopped. If it stopped in a certain section, he paid off. If it didn't, he kept their bets. But wait until I tell Mac Swenson that his merry-go-round is a gambling device. He'll blow his top. Mac hates gambling worse than any guy I know. That's why he runs a merry-go-round."

STEVE WOOD







CAPTAIN! HELP!
I'VE BEEN ROBBED!

WHAT?



MY STATEROOM'S
BEEN RANSACKED AND
MY VALUABLES STOLEN!
I DEMAND THAT
EVERYBODY ON BOARD
BE SEARCHED!

OH! I MIGHT
HAVE KNOWN THAT
SOMETHING WOULD
HAPPEN TO MAKE
ME GO BACK TO
WORK!



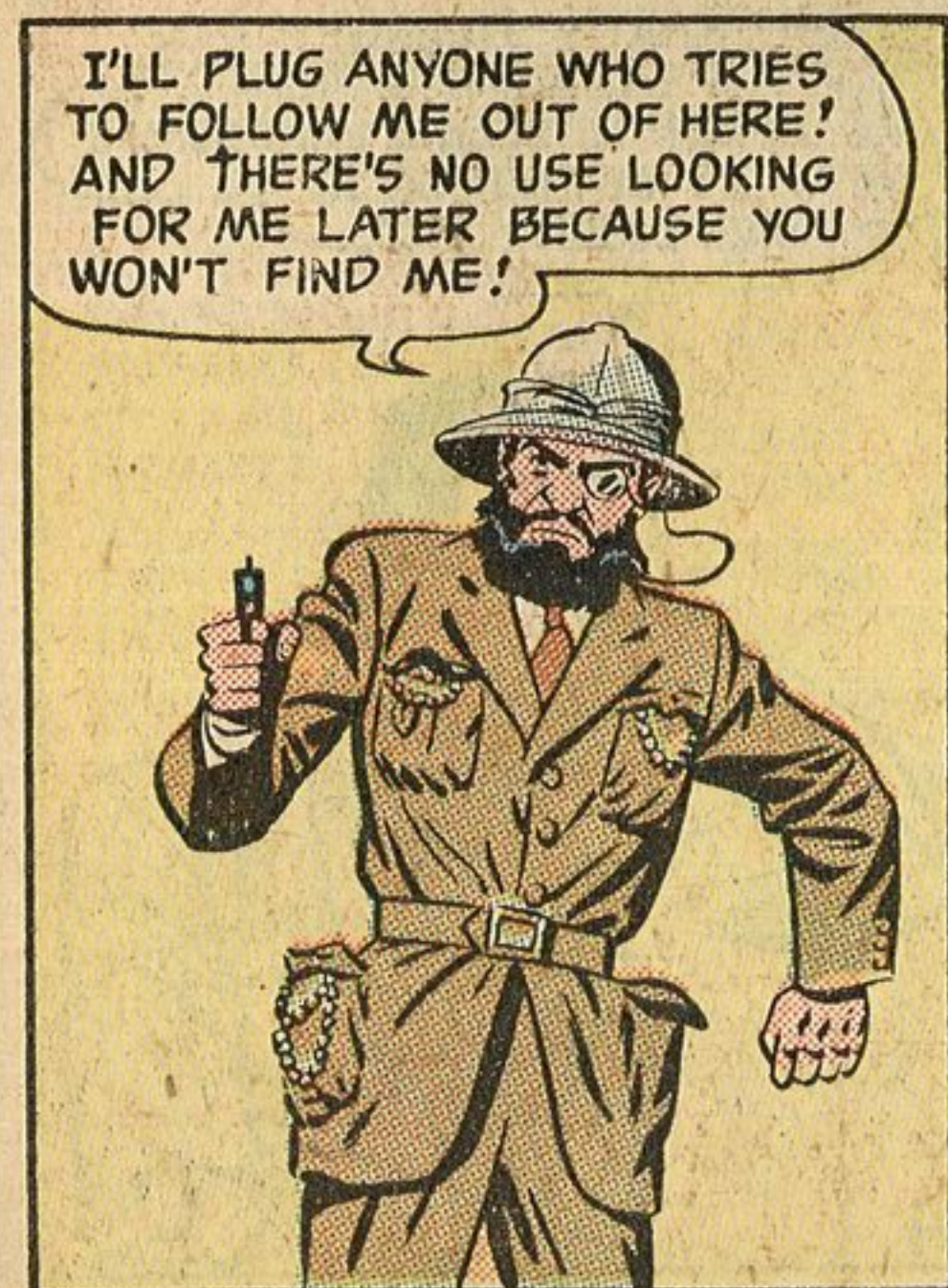
THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY! I
ROBBED A GOOD MANY STATEROOMS!
NOW I'LL FINISH THE JOB!
HANDS UP, EVERYBODY!

THE
PROFESSOR!
I CAN'T
BELIEVE
IT!



GIVE ME THAT
NECKLACE! ONE
FALSE MOVE AND
I'LL SHOOT!

HE'S THE KIND OF
CRACKPOT WHO'D DO
IT TOO! BUT HOW
DOES HE THINK HE'LL
GET AWAY WITH IT OUT
AT SEA?



I'LL PLUG ANYONE WHO TRIES
TO FOLLOW ME OUT OF HERE!
AND THERE'S NO USE LOOKING
FOR ME LATER BECAUSE YOU
WON'T FIND ME!



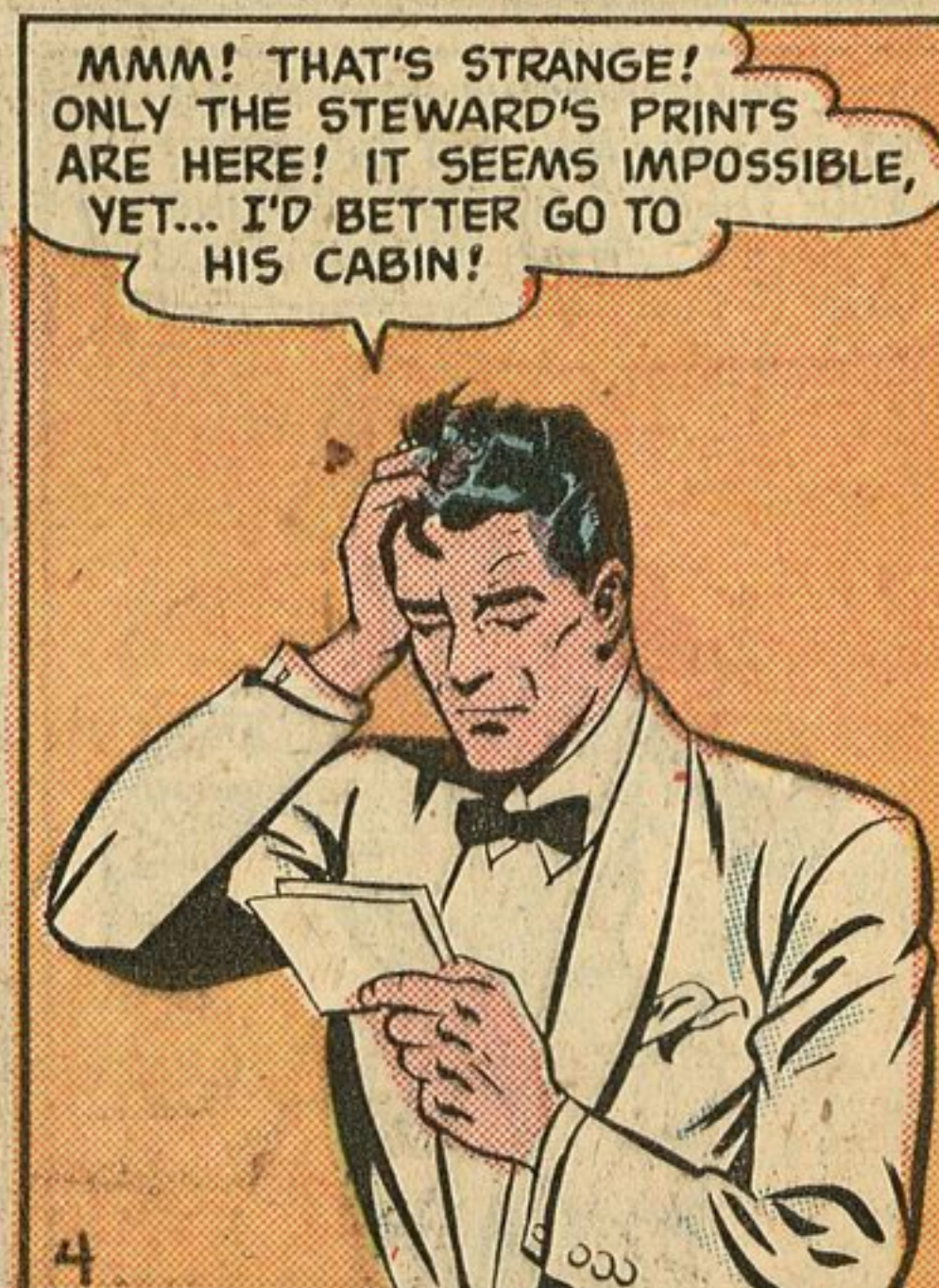
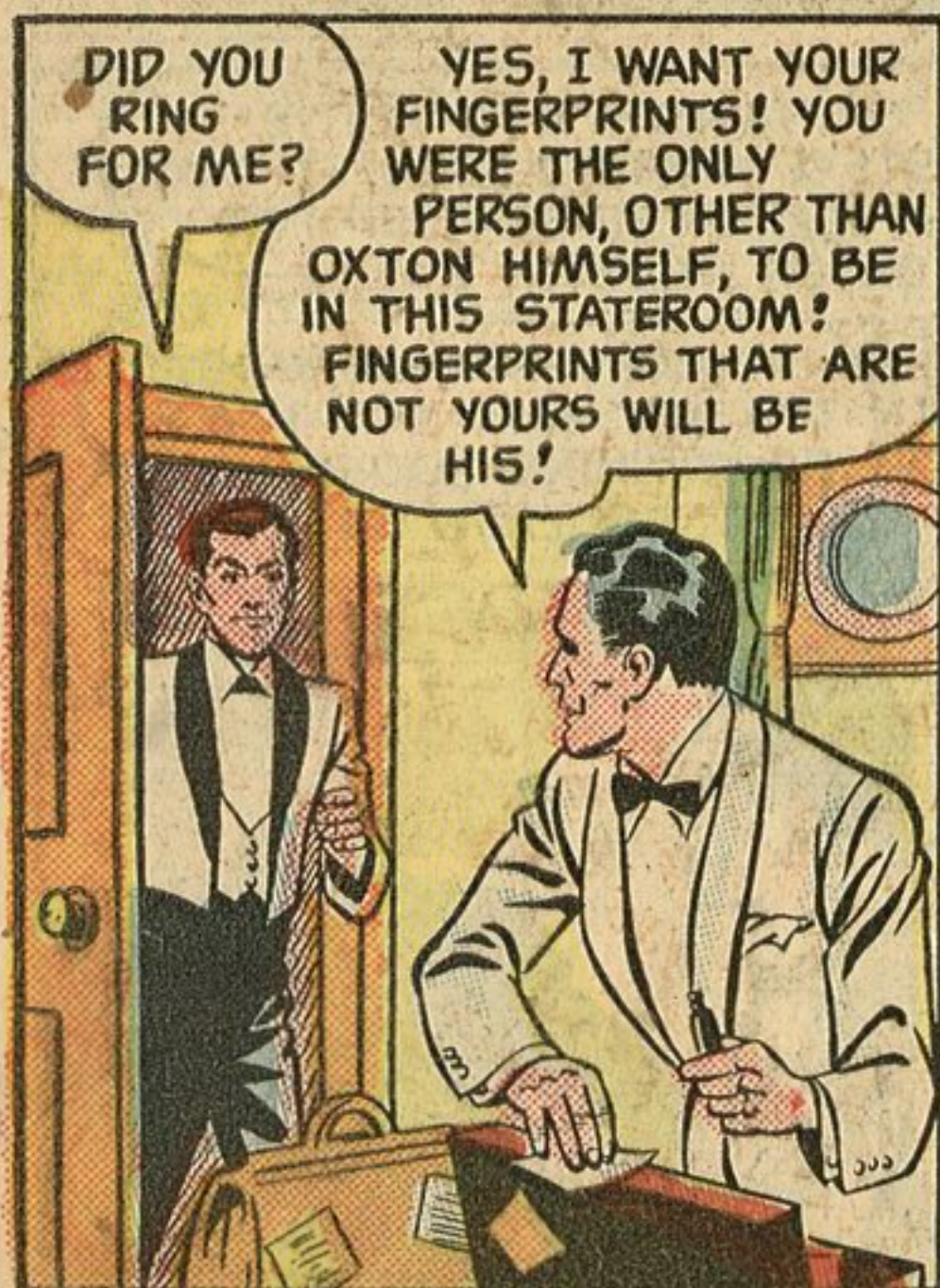
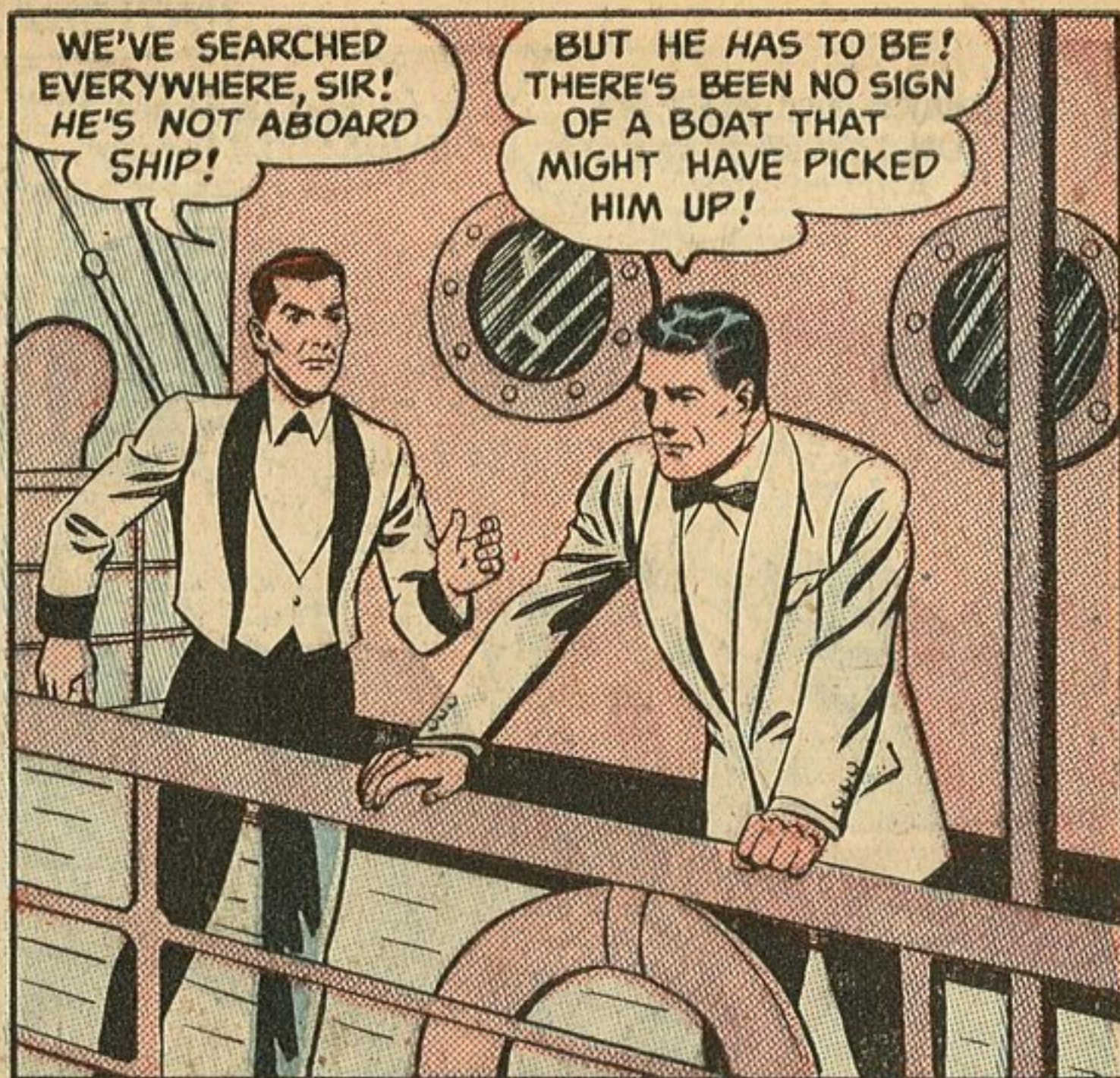
TAKE IT EASY! THAT FELLOW'D
SHOOT, ALL RIGHT! HE'S
OBVIOUSLY INSANE!

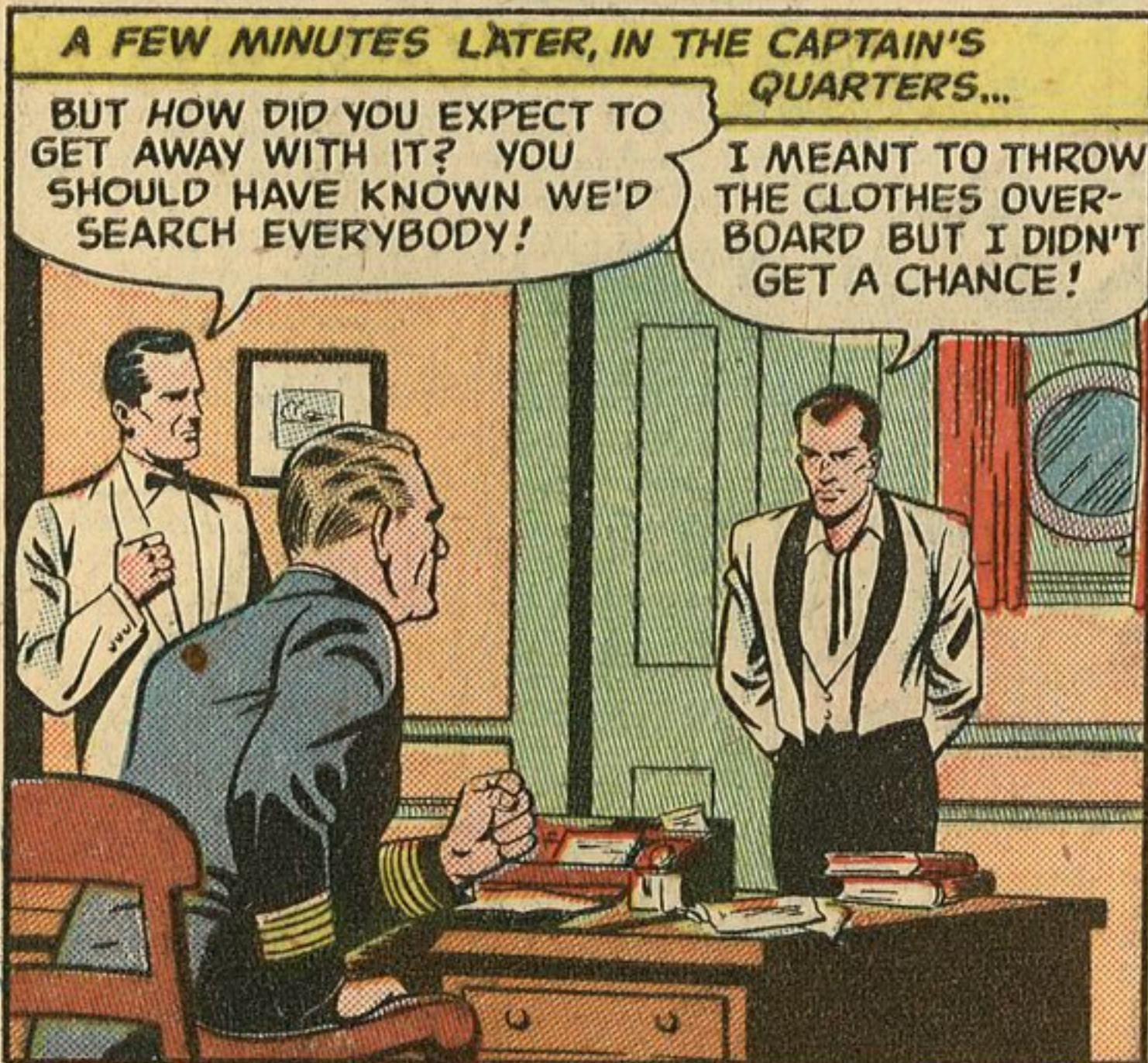
HE MUST BE, TO THINK
HE CAN ESCAPE...UNLESS
HE EXPECTS TO JUMP
OVERBOARD AND TAKE
HIS LOOT TO DAVY
JONES'S LOCKER FOR
SAFEKEEPING!



CAPTAIN, I'M A DETECTIVE--
STEVE WOOD! I SUGGEST THAT
A SEARCH BE STARTED FOR
OXTON AT ONCE!

YOU'RE RIGHT, MR. WOOD!
IT'S NOT SAFE FOR HIM TO
BE RUNNING LOOSE! I'LL
PUT THE CREW ON THE JOB!





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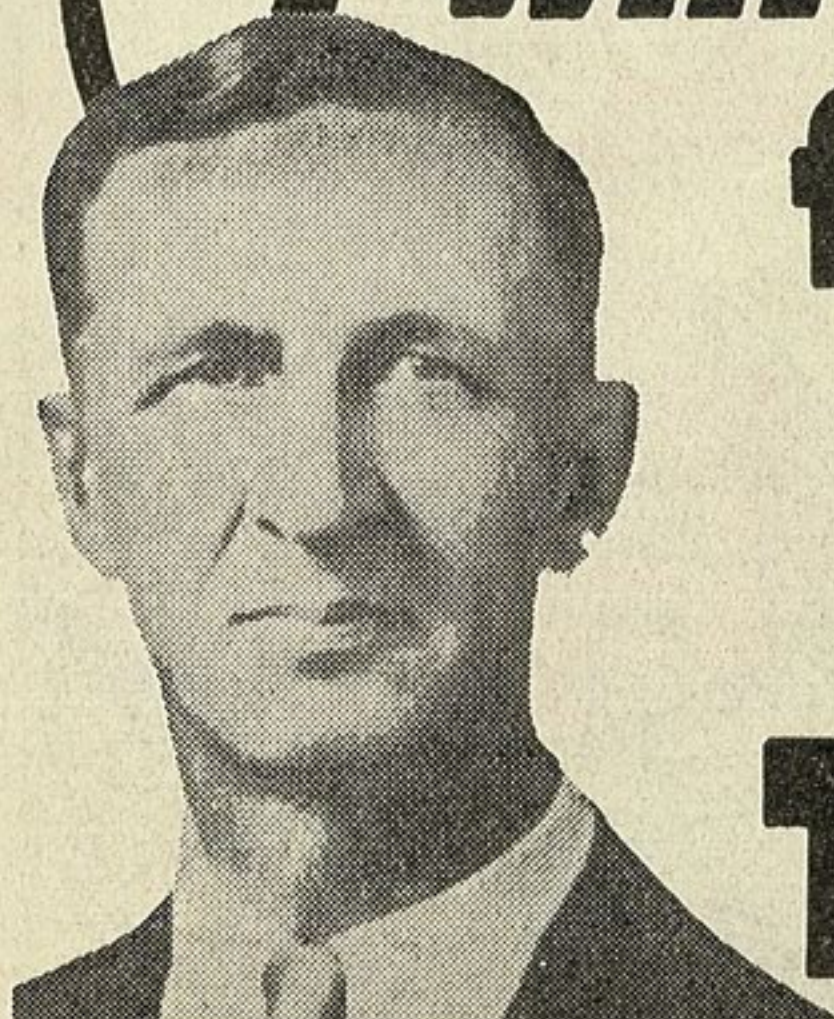
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